CA0010

Faith, Fellowship, and Order

Promoting Wholeness
Respecting Diversity
Nurturing Community

Resource Centre Catalogue

Materials available
as of September 1, 1995

FFO is the abbreviation for the Faith, Fellowship, and Order Commission of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

UFMCC is the abbreviation for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

All prices quoted are in USA Dollars.

These following materials are available from the FFO Resource Centre only:

CC0010	FFO Catalogue
FF0020	FFO Manual
FF0030	FFO Brochure
FF2180	An Inclusive Language/Inclusivity Workshop
FF2930	Toward a Theology of Ordination

All other materials are available from:

The Resource Center
c/o UFMCC
5300 Santa Monica BLVD. Suite 304
Los Angeles, CA 90029 USA
(213)464-5100

For more information contact your District Commissioners to Faith, Fellowship, and Order or write to:

Faith, Fellowship, and Order Resource Centre
c/o Dale Burkholder
626 Peninsula Court
Ann Arbor, Michigan USA 48105
(313) 662 - 7338

FFO Manual

Mr. Sean - Patrick Hogan

A how-to manual.

A practical guide to leading a small group discussion. Although written for facilitators of FFO workshops, this guide can be used for Bible Studies, Support Groups, and other types of small group discussions.

FF0020 $20.00

FFO Brochure

Rev. Art Griffin 1993

A brochure.

A brief overview of the mission and ministry of the Faith Fellowship, and Order Commission of the UFMCC.

FF0030 $0.00

Theological Education: FFO's hope

Rev. Janet Pierce

A position paper.

This paper sets forth one of the basic ideas of FFO, namely every person is a theologian. We, in UFMCC, need to take the task of helping every member to be a theologian seriously.

FF0930 $2.50

Living out the original hope

Rev. Jennie Boyd-Bull

A position paper.

In introduction to the ministry of the Faith, Fellowship, and Order commission of the UFMCC.

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An Inclusive Language/Inclusiveness Workshop

Rev. Helene Loper 1995

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Faith, Fellowship, and Order Commission 1986

6 sessions of 2 hours each.

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Toward a Theology of Ordination

Faith, Fellowship, and Order. 1995

Various papers.

FFO compiled this collection of voices exploring the question of "What is Ordination within UFMCC". These papers do not answer the question, but rather provide a starting point for the discussion.

Contributors include: Rev. Pat Bumgardner, Rev. Kittredge Cherry, Rev. Elder J. Wilhelmina A. Hein, Rev. Michael Horn, Rev. Sylvanus Maduka, Rev. Candace Shultis, Ms. Marion C. E. Briggs, Ms. Patricia L. MacAodha

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The Faith, Fellowship, and Order Commission

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Dr. Cynthia Chandler 1992

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Rev. Robert Hogg 1987

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The topics are: 1. Death; 2. We are living, We make decisions; 3. Dying in life, The losses we live; 4. After Death: Life; 5. Good grief; and 6. Celebrating death.

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August / September 1996 Price $4.25

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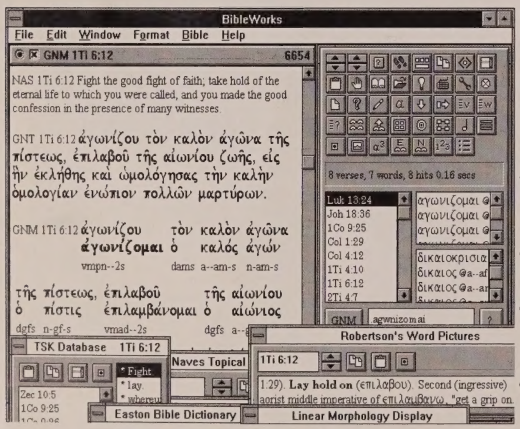

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CHURCH BYTES®

The Church Computing Magazine

Vol. 12 No. 5 August/September 1996

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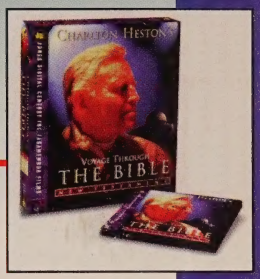

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Cover Background Photo from Proclaim™ Communications

Letters to the Editor

Say "Cheese"...

I read with interest Walt Stone's article on the use of *PhotoWorks* ("Pictures Enliven Your Newsletter"–Jan '96). I was in the process just yesterday of upgrading from their free demo version to *PhotoWorks Plus* for Windows. So far I have only developed one roll of film with them and have one 'Pictures on Disk.'

I got onto ***CHURCH BYTES*** a year ago when I undertook a volunteer assignment for my church to study, recommend, purchase, and install, a new networked computer system. I ended up with a seven workstation and server Pentium 75 system using *ACS* church software as the core around which we will work. Although we are Windows based, I am using *ACS*'s DOS version until everything is up and running. Then I will look at converting over to their new Windows version. We went all out for their 16 different modules. Have you any experience with this software?

Marshall Peterson
Avon Lake, OH

Thanks for a very interesting article about using your own photographs in church newsletters and flyers. I didn't realize the technology was within the reach of church budgets at this point. You gave me some ideas for our church newsletter. I have written an e-mail message to Seattle Film Works asking them for more information. It sounds very exciting.

We are still using an AST 386SX and DOS with *WordPerfect* 6.0 for DOS. I understand from your article that *Photoworks* will also work with DOS. Maybe next year we'll be able to upgrade to a better computer and Windows. Thanks again.

Jim Winters
Internet via Delphi

Looking for GEOS help

Dear Walt,

I saw your article! ("Pictures Enliven Your Newsletter"–Jan '96) I was intrigued to see that you are "an expert" in the GEOS family of software tools. Are you 'up' on *Ensemble 2.0*? My parents are missionaries and have a 286 laptop on which *Ensemble* works great and they have learned enough to get by. I'd be interested to know if there are any add-ons, support sites on the Internet, tips and tools, conversion utilities, etc, that are available? I have *Ensemble 2.0* on my machine just so I can help them when they get into a problem.

Timothy Anger
Internet via CompuServe
<http://www.lvbaptist.orgwebmstr.html>

Ed: I am pleased that you dropped me a note. Rather than give you a whole list of URL's, just try <http://www.geoworks.com> and follow all the links. I am sorry to say that there are no announced plans by Geoworks to upgrade the present 2.0 for the desktop market. Their management is apparently concentrating on the handheld PDA market. You will find that Geoworkers are a friendly bunch, and as one of 'them,' I want you to feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Bravo on your WWW page!

Walt Stone
Contributing Editor

Number, please!

Today I received the February issue of ***CHURCH BYTES***, the second one in its new garb. Great! The solution found for our preferred magazine is really the best for all: for the new publisher, for you, for the readership. I am very glad at it. The new improvements are much appreciated. Congratulations to all of you!

In this issue's article on *Christian Cyberspace Companion*, a new book by Jason D. Baker, I missed the publisher's phone number. Can you provide it to me? Thanks.

Francis de Ruijte
Canada via Internet

Ed: You may contact Baker Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan at 616-676-9185, 800-877-2665, 800-398-3111 fax, or [bakerbooks@aol.com] e-mail, or <http://www.bakerbooks.com/ccc/> for the book's home page.

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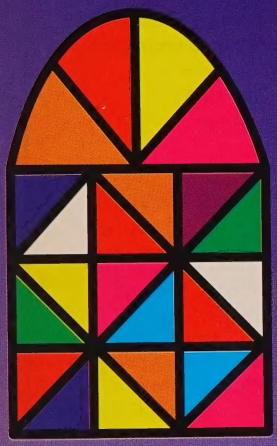

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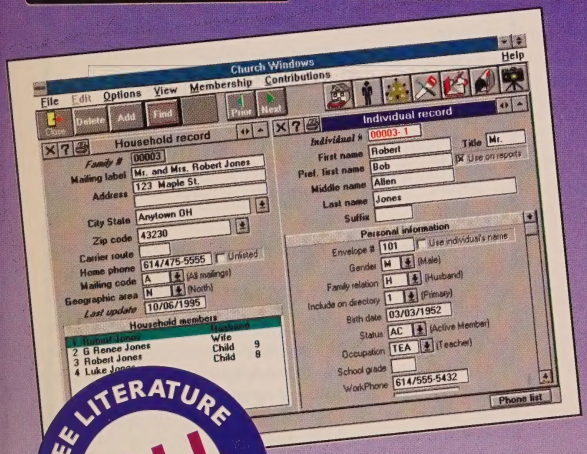

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From the Publisher

Change. Change. Change. This is a word that is used, abused and a constant part of our society. It is commonly said, "The only thing you can count on in our technological society is change." Our staff here at Deerhaven Press has been busy these past few months evaluating the purpose and function of ***CHURCH BYTES***. You no doubt noticed this is a thicker magazine than in the past. Beginning with this issue we are changing ***CHURCH BYTES*** from being a monthly publication to bimonthly. This will allow us to better report in depth the ways technology impacts ministry. We will be able to expand the number of topics and to better cover the issues which face us in our ever evolving society. It will give us the opportunity to bring you more of the solid reviews of software which you find so helpful.

Yet, even in the midst of change there are some things which will not be compromised. Even though there are more pages, the focus of ***CHURCH BYTES*** is basically the same. Fair and honest reviews of software remain a major commitment of our editorial staff. We will continue to bring you a variety of topics, writers and viewpoints. Finally, we continue to welcome your comments, suggestions and insights as to what works for you as you strive to serve God. For over twelve years ***CHURCH BYTES*** has helped thousands unleash the possibilities of the changing technology which is in our midst. Our enthusiasm to continuing that tradition has never changed.

Finally, for those of you surfing the Net, please check out our web site at <http://www.deerhaven.com/>. Feel free to drop us an e-mail note from our Web site and let us know what you think. Your continued feedback is important as ***CHURCH BYTES*** changes to meet your needs. ❧

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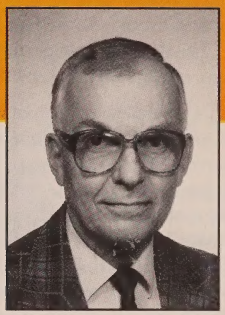

Neil B. Houk
Editor-in-Chief

Recently the expression 'user-interface metaphors' caught my imagination. Everyone must know about the famous Macintosh trash can and now Windows 95 users frequently see folders flying through the air. There are icons, 3D mouse pointers, and 'Robotz' sound schemes to guide the user. With interface metaphors programmers visualize or audio-ize computer activity that is really nothing more than electron ebb and flow, or smoke and mirrors in the back room, as one of my instructors put it years ago.

The more I muse on 'user-interface metaphors,' the more I like the phrase. Computer interface metaphors can be helpful or distracting, either guiding or confusing. Isn't that also true about the metaphors of worship, for example? They may become so abstract that the connection escapes us or so crowded with symbols that the chaos puts us off, like too many icons and screen sprites. Yet perhaps we've been at worship that is so barren of images that we miss the mystery of faith and the sense of holy presence. Oh for a procession and the sound of trumpets!

For many of us ordination is another user-interface metaphor that leads us in the paths of 'decency and good order,' that guides us in the painful times of living, that symbolizes that great invitation to gather all the nations, and ourselves, about the banquet table. The pastoral laying on of hands in the hospital, for me, brought a powerful sense of healing and peace. Yet the ordination metaphor means for many the pain of exclusion, power claims, and outworn definitions.

Sometimes the Bible itself as metaphor brings us into the presence of God as we strain to 'hear' a Word for our lives. Yet how easily it is so busily waved, its covers limp with leather, to cover all sorts of claims and affirmations. Instead of a metaphor of user-interface with the Holy, the Scripture serves to discredit, define, and draw lines between us and them.

What a fresh way to consider the Gospel story as a Word about user-interfaces.

When I think of 'user-interface metaphors' I think of the Christian faith, how our lives interface within the community of faith. What a fresh way to consider the Gospel story as a Word about user-interfaces.

"And one of them, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question, to test him. 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?' And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets'" (Matt 22:35-40; RSV).

These are the two great user-interfaces for the Christian life, two deeply fundamental teachings shared with the faith of Israel (Deut 6:4-9; Lev 19:18). The people of Israel understood the need for 'user-interface metaphors' in their daily lives: "And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates," metaphors still active today in the Jewish community.

What are our active metaphors for the two great user-interfaces in life? Cross, certainly. Bread and wine, hands folded in prayer. Christmas and Easter metaphors for

many have taken on so many combinations of images to the point of distraction. Some feel most comfortable wearing Christian symbols or sheltering close to steeple, communion cup, and liturgy. Some feel great pain as Christian metaphors undergo challenge, change, and renewal.

John's disciples, too, must have felt that tension over developing new user-interface metaphors. They came to Jesus, asking if he were the Messiah, a metaphor deeply embedded in their lives. Jesus didn't deny them their old metaphors; he encouraged new ones, metaphors of healing and new life. Look about you and tell John what you see.

But it's not easy to develop new metaphors of life. What kind of sign is it if we offer food but do not empower the hungry, offer water to the thirsty but do not dig wells and solve pollution, help the lame to walk and do not clear the way to work, assist the blind to see with computers but do not give them access to public life, preach the invitation of Christ to community and do not receive everyone like the children he gathered?

Love of God and of neighbor, Jesus reminds us, are the interfaces we have with life. What metaphors will we develop to express those interfaces and help us live them out? What will we bind to our heads, our doorposts, and our arms? How do the realities of our generation generate metaphors of salvation as we experience refugees and genocide, alcohol and cocaine, Hubble-visioned galaxies and genetic healing, pluralism of cultures and languages at our church steps, and the pain and joys of being human beings created by God, a mystery far beyond our understandings.

What of the computer as a metaphor of Christian living? That is ours to design, so press <Enter> and serve the Lord. ❧

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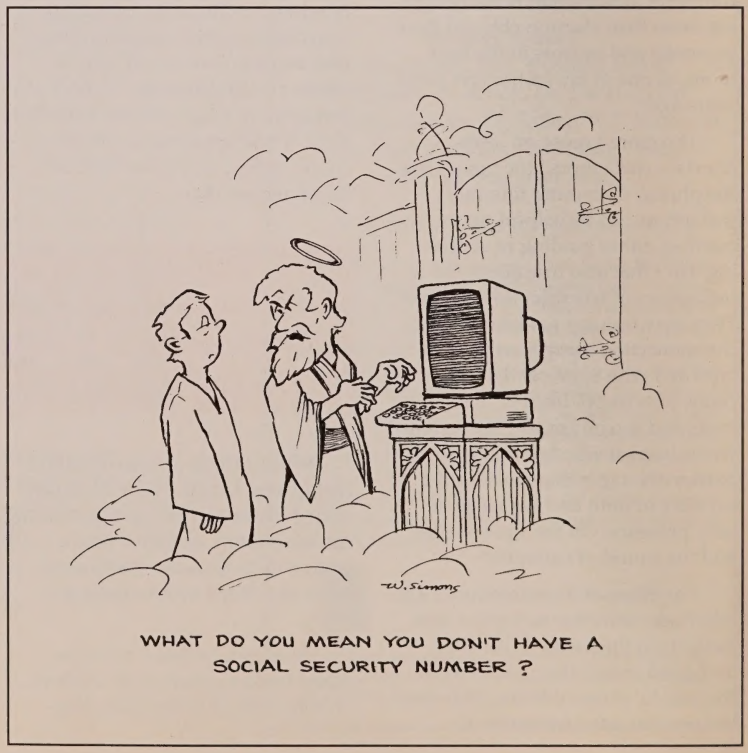

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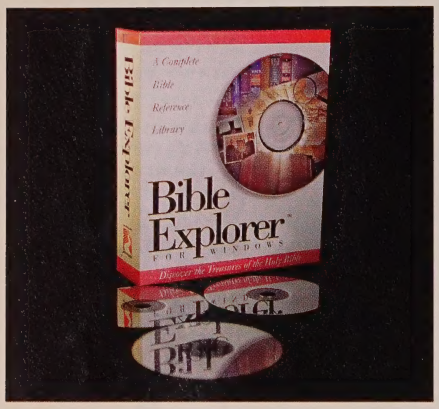


A Review of Epiphany Software's *Bible Explorer* CD-ROM for Windows

The *Bible Explorer* CD-ROM for Windows is aptly named. Install the program, start it up, and you'll soon discover yourself exploring the Bible. The program is easy to learn and use because it makes such good use of Windows at every turn. So load the CD-ROM drive, click the mouse a few times to warm up, and let's get going!

First, the contents. A great deal for only $69.95! Click the Library icon to find Bibles (KJV and Strong's numbers, Living Bible, ASV, and RSV), Christian Literature (*Confessions of St. Augustine, Imitation of Christ, Necessity of Prayer, Paradise Lost, Paradise Regained, Pilgrim's Progress*), Commentaries (Matthew Henry's *Concise Commentary, Scofield Study Notes*), Devotional (Spurgeon's *Morning and Evening*), Dictionaries (Easton's *Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Manners and Customs of Bible Lands*), Maps & Atlases (9 maps), Photography & Art, Topic Studies (*Nave's Topical Bible, Thompson's Chain References, Laws of the Bible, Personal Topics, Prophecies Concerning Jesus*), and Word Studies (*Strong's Dictionary, Vine's Dictionary*).

If you wish, you can pay additional and unlock the NIV ($39.95), NRSV ($29.95), NKJV ($29.95), and New Century Version ($29.95) Bibles, as well as Barclay's *New Testament Commentary* ($49.95) and J. Vernon McGee's *Thru the Bible Commentary* (OT, NT, $49.95 each).

The nine color maps of Bible lands can be zoomed in or out in six different magnifications in order to focus on a particular area.

The Nine Color Maps Of Bible Lands Can Be Zoomed In Or Out In Six Different Magnifications

Because the larger sized presentations of the map can not be seen in entirety on screen, *Bible Explorer* provides mouse movement of each map. Just click the map and drag it as you please. Be careful that you don't get dizzy! Of course, you can use the scroll bars too, with more dignity, the old fashioned Windows way. The physical map conveys well the lay of the land in large magnification as you move down the Jordan valley to the Dead Sea and beyond.

For some reason there is no map of Israel in Jesus' day (just Jerusalem), but there is for Joshua's day and for modern Israel and Palestine. We hope that Epiphany will add maps in the future. We'd also suggest a connection between the maps and the photographs. Maybe a marker on the maps linked to every related

photo and an easy way to bring up the correct map while viewing a photograph. Perhaps a click on a city name would pop up a dictionary window with a description. The material is already in *Bible Explorer*; just give us more hypertext links!

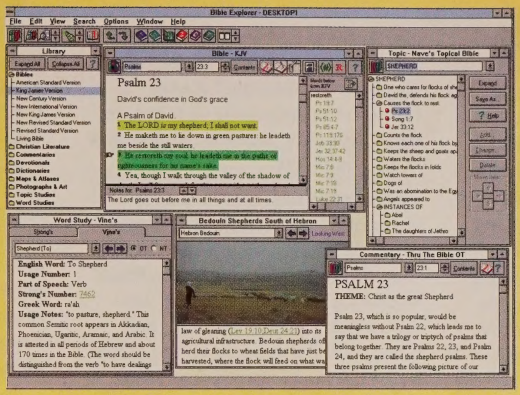
Many users will appreciate the 300 woodcuts and drawings, some from an older Bible dictionary, some from Doré woodcuts. Each of these connects to a relevant Bible passage; just click to read it. A descriptive narrative to explain each line drawing and woodcut would be helpful. Each of the photographs, on the other hand, does have an explanation accompanying it.

On a SVGA screen the 200 photographs of Bible-related locations, buildings, and ruins are excellent. We found ourselves taking unscheduled photo tours more than once as we examined *Bible Explorer*. When the photo screen opens the photo is rather small, with the remainder of the window filled with helpful description. Just drag the boundary line between photo and text down until you see only 2 or 3 lines of text, enough to identify and read. Then the photographs are wonderful, detailed, and well planned. In several photos which we came upon, however, the modern "war" photos and descriptions presented an Israeli perspective only and seemed inappropriate in any case.

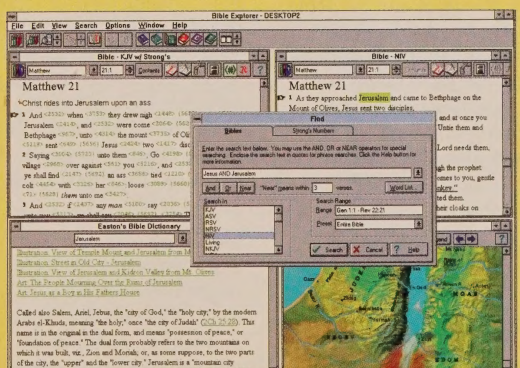
There are so many excellent and useful features to *Bible Explorer* that we won't tell you how they work, or how easily, just that they are available at a click. You can highlight with any of four colors, attach personal notes to any verse, insert named bookmarks and return to one later. You can change the Windows Clipboard from a one time copy and paste tool, to an appendable Clipboard. Just keep adding more selections to the Clipboard until you've gotten all three texts you want to copy into your word processor Bible lesson. No need to keep jumping back and forth to your word processor.

The use of multiple desktops which save by name a study session's notes, configuration, preferences, highlights, windows open, choices of Bibles, dictionaries, etc., should find wide use. You could have a desktop that was ready with Strong's numbers and the KJV. You could have another that had the maps, photos, and dictionary tools already up and running. Great possibilities, just like having a dozen volumes spread around your desk and work table and not having to put them all away each time you run off to a meeting or start supper! Or having two work tables each spread with a different set of books, open and ready to use.

In *Bible Explorer* you even have your choices for what each button on the toolbar opens when you begin a new window. This means you choose which Bible, which



JESUS THE GREAT SHEPHERD



JESUS AND THE HOLY CITY

commentary, which topic reference work, which dictionary, which word study is opened by clicking icons on the toolbar. Save those choices with a desktop name and you can work with several toolbar combinations to suit your tasks.

Reference works are integrated to the Bible texts. Click on any scripture reference such as John 1:3 in a reference work and that scripture passage opens in the Bible. We would like to see reverse links in future editions of *Bible Explorer*, where a click on a word would take you to other passages in the Bible or a dictionary definition, or a commentary. [Ed: full cross referencing is coming in a new version.]

A superior tool is located under Topic Studies in the Library of reference works and Bibles. Under that section of the Library among others is Personal Topics, a wonderful outlining tool that provides hypertext links to the Bible texts. You enter a topic, any title you wish for a topic, and then as sub topics you can enter individual Bible references, such as Jonah 2:3 or Matt 4:1. Click on any such reference and the Bible text is displayed in a side-by-side window. Click on another reference and the Bible jumps to that passage. Your topics entries work like an outliner program, with branching and sub-branching. You can save your outline to a text file for word processing.

If by now you think that we've opened a lot of windows and might be lost, you're right! You can keep going as long as your computer has memory to use. But lost? Never, not with *Bible Explorer*. You can click on 'Window' on the top menu bar to see a list of every open window; click to move to any one. There are also buttons and icons to click to see the history of operations in a window, to move backwards through the steps you've taken, to move from one window backwards or forwards, etc.

Perhaps we are all wary of "user friendly," but *Bible Explorer* certainly qualifies for that description. We were able to explore the words for "thousands" and "ten thousands" in both Hebrew and Greek without turning to the actual language reference works on our bookshelf nearby. This should encourage those readers who do not read Greek and Hebrew. You can improve and deepen your Bible word studies with *Bible Explorer*'s tools. The translations of individual Greek and Hebrew words varies within English so you may otherwise miss the many connections original to the Bible.

> PERHAPS WE ARE ALL WARY OF "USER FRIENDLY," BUT BIBLE EXPLORER CERTAINLY QUALIFIES FOR THAT DESCRIPTION

The power of *Bible Explorer* would be greatly enhanced if the user could search on all the reference works and Bibles at the same time, or better yet select which works would be searched at one time. The more we used the more than capable tools of *Bible Explorer*, the more we wanted all the resources to be integrated to each other. Yes, that's a rule of computer software technology; the more excellent capabilities a vendor offers, the more we wish for! [Ed: promised for a new release.]

Bible Explorer, and, for that matter, all the other computer Bibles and reference tools we've seen—might well include a write up of each Bible version, reference work, and author. Many do not know who is who. Just because most computer Bibles include *Nave's Topical Bible* does not mean everyone knows who Nave was and what are the strengths and weaknesses of these topics. For another example, we were reading about Bethany in a dictionary window, which ended by saying it was now a "mean village" of twenty families. When was that written? In an aside, not directed at *Bible Explorer* particularly, the proliferation of easy computer use of older reference works, besides conveying many riches to a wider audience, at the same time perpetuates out of date information.

Now, start clicking to close all those windows we've opened. Oh, I see you're busy looking at photos of cities which Paul visited. I guess you don't need further convincing that *Bible Explorer* is an excellent CD-ROM based Bible study tool, and at the low cost of $69.95. ❧

Windows®

In addition to the $69.95 basic *Bible Explorer* described above, Epiphany bundles it with all four additional Bibles for $109.95 ($20 savings), with both Barclay's NT and all of *Thru The Bible* for $124.95 ($25 savings), or everything for $229.95 ($50 savings).

A coming release will offer additional add-ons, such as Torrey's *New Topical Textbook*, the NASB, the Reina Verlera 1960 (Spanish), and the entire Matthew Henry commentary, as well as several significant features enhancements noted above.

Contact Epiphany Software, 15897 Alta Vista Way, San Jose, CA 95127, 800-280-7437, 408-251-9788, 408-251-9949 fax, 102447.3577@compuserve.com.

Computer Bible Techniques

If you don't have a computer Bible already loaded on your hard disk drive, you may wonder what the excitement is all about. Aren't the printed ones good enough? What can a computer Bible offer that a printed Bible cannot? How do you actually use a computer Bible? Will a computer assisted study of the Bible bring worthwhile gains? Now there's help at hand to answer these questions and many more.

Jeffrey Hsu takes a thorough look in his *A Comprehensive Guide to Computer Bible Study: Up-to-Date Information on the Best Software and Techniques*. Some of the chapters address the most basic questions and that is one strength of this book. The computer novice will come away with a solid grasp of the computer itself as well as the software waiting to be put to work. Yet the computer "expert," as well, will find guidance in the actual use of familiar, but under used software.

Topics covered include equipment and how it works, costs, advantages and disadvantages with computer Bibles, Hebrew and Greek tools, multilingual word processing, sermon resources, CD-ROM products, the Bible and telecommunications, and Bible-related educational and recreational software. Of course, many details will be out of date, but the general information is still helpful as you begin to assess just how you will move into the use of a computer Bible.

Even more importantly, at the heart of Hsu's Comprehensive Guide are several significant chapters. These move beyond the usual descriptions of software, their features and capabilities. Hsu leads the reader through four ways of doing Bible study with a computer Bible: word studies, the lives of Bible people, historical-geographical study, and topical methods.

These explanations of ways in which to use these marvelous tools will offer insight and new skills to both the novice and the more experienced computer user. For example, a sample word study of 'rejoice' and 'joy' takes the reader through word counts, finding that these are important words in the Letter to the Philippians, sorting out our own meanings in English and the meanings of Paul, checking uses in other letters by Paul and in other Bible books, organizing all the data, comparing translations, etc. Hsu provides practical examples for serious study of the Bible.

The software reference section at the conclusion of the book, of course, is out of date. Some software and companies have already vanished from the marketplace. Other companies offer new add-on products and Bible versions all the time. But for someone who has not been a regular ***CHURCH BYTES*** reader the information provides an easy overview of the exciting possibilities in software. Since the book's publication, those possibilities have doubled! ❧

A Comprehensive Guide to Computer Bible Study by Jeffrey Hsu with Kermit Ecklebarger and Terri Gibbs, published by Word Publishing ($12.99, 224 pp., 1993, paperbound), is available from bookstores.

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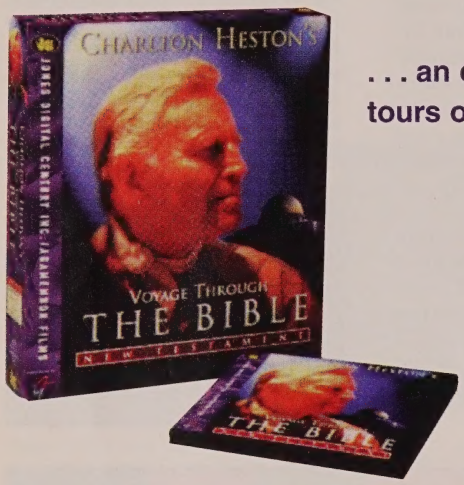


. . . an extravagant blend of color, sound, motion, tours of religious sites, and Heston's voice

What do you get when you bring together on one disc Charlton Heston, the religious sites of Palestine, the stories of the Bible, masterpiece artworks, narration and music, video tours, and computer generated models of the temple in Jesus' day? You get *Charlton Heston's Voyage Through The Bible*, an excellent, inspirational program for Windows and Macintosh. We ran the New Testament disc in Windows 95; the Old Testament disc will have been released by the time you read this.

The CD-ROM software is better than the original 1992 A&E network TV production or the four-part home video version because the user controls each step through the Bible stories. *Voyage* is an extravagant blend of color, sound, motion, tours of religious sites, and Heston's voice. In addition, the four gospel texts with brief explanations of many key words and names, the commentaries on artwork, and the displays of art from the great masters will inspire, intrigue, and teach.

Voyage offers the user a variety of entrances into the world of the biblical stories and their artistic interpretation. You could concentrate on the art masterpieces first. The one hundred works are indexed by biblical story, by title, and by artist, so you can click on any one to display it (ca. 3x5″). Along with the small reproduction you'll see the name of the artist, dates of birth and death, the title of the masterpiece, and where it is located, city and museum. Click again on the masterpiece and the painting fills the screen (ca. 7x9″). On both VGA and SVGA monitors the colors and detail will please you as a wonderful introduction. We would have liked the opportunity to click for additional information about the artist and the painting or fresco.

If you choose to read the Gospel texts, *Voyage* (New Testament disc) offers the four Gospels in parallel with cross-linking. The names of people and places and key items are in bold so you can click to jump to a dictionary explanation or to other Gospel passages referencing the same words. A 'history' button enables you to trace your steps back to where you were first reading in a Gospel.

You could begin with Jerusalem which receives special attention in *Voyage*. First, Heston takes you on a brief introduction with a video clip, interesting photos, computer simu-

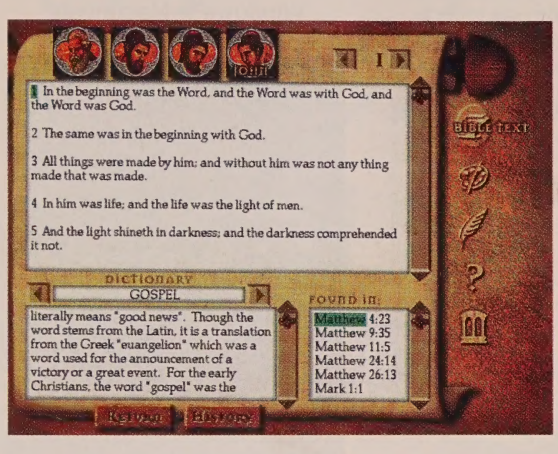
lations, and narration. Then you can choose to visit the Hall of the Last Supper, the Temple Mount, Golgotha, the Garden Tomb, the Antonio Fortress, the Golden Gate, and the Garden of Olives. At the end of each of these tours you can click to read the relevant Scripture, click to see and hear related artistic presentations, and hear Heston read from the related Bible story.

For example, the tour of the Temple Mount takes you by photographs, narration, and video clips right into the Second Temple of Jesus' day. The computer lets you look around the Women's Court, other areas of the temple courtyards, and even into the interior of the temple itself to see the seven-branched candlestick and the curtain separating off the Holy of Holies. You'll quickly find your interest building and you will eagerly move on to another of the Jerusalem tours. Of course, you could hear Heston read the relevant Scripture first and see the multimedia presentations too.

You can also choose to enter *Voyage* through visits to the three areas of Palestine: Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. The menus display as maps with sites and tours available at a click. In Galilee, for example, you can see screens about Tiberias, Jotapata, Magdala, Mount Tabor, and the Church of Loaves and Fish. Each display includes two photographs or paintings (1.5x2") and brief identifications and descriptions. The tours, or 'voyages,' include Cana, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Beatitudes, and Capernaum. Each of these takes you to the location with video clips, photographs, artwork, Heston's narration, and his Bible readings.

. . . . a rich resource for the community of faith

We clicked on Judea and then Bethlehem. The program presents photographs and art work narrated by Heston to tell the birth story of Jesus. Then he goes on to describe the subsequent history of the location to the accompaniment of photographs, diagrams, and paintings, concluding with the building by



Emperor Justinian of the church still standing today.

When the Bethlehem tour ends, if you wish, you can click on an extended video of the artwork pertaining to the Nativity. Heston interprets a succession of paintings and frescoes, identifies the artists who executed them, and explains the changing theological outlooks affecting their artistic endeavors. The comments on the historical developments in religious art over the centuries should inform the user and lead to visits to art museums and reproductions.

Then, still filling out the Bethlehem voyage, you can click to hear Heston read the Biblical narrative (his "redaction" of the KJV) to the accompaniment of smoothly changing montages of artwork composed from entire masterpieces and portions against computer backgrounds. The Bethlehem presentation will appeal to thoughtful adults.

Finally, to complete the Bethlehem presentation you can click to read the two Gospel stories in the King James Version of the Bible. Of course once in the Bible you can read any other passages that you choose and consult the integrated dictionary.

At the conclusion of the Bethlehem choices you can select another story of Jesus' life and turn to it. Or you can return to the main menu and choose another voyage to an ancient biblical site.

Perhaps the only disappointing part of the *Voyage* disc was the limited selection of musical excerpts, explanations, and portraits of the composers; four periods and six composers. These were not related in any particular way to the tours.

We would like to see a few more linkages on a CD-ROM to take full advantage of the technology. One wish, for example, is the ability to click on the Bible story readings and art masterpiece presentations not only after each voyage, but also from a menu within the program. In other words, while viewing a painting by Dali related to the Last Supper we would like to click to the Last Supper-related narrated presentations of art or to the Bible texts, and then back to the Dali painting. Now you can only get to the art presentation related to the Last Supper by working your way through the general introduction to Jerusalem and the presentations for the Hall of the Last Supper. Other links would

extend the usefulness of this excellent disc for teaching purposes.

Advance notices of the Old Testament disc indicate that the focus will be on the stories of creation, Eden, Cain and Abel, the flood, Abraham and Isaac, Joseph, Moses and the Exodus, with site tours in Egypt and Mesopotamia. The Bible portions will be Genesis through Deuteronomy and Joshua. The art work will include western, Egyptian, and Sumerian paintings and sculpture.

Charlton Heston's Voyage Through The Bible offers excellent ways to imbibe the stories of the Bible and learn about the locations and life behind the stories and since. The voyages through the New Testament certainly will make you eager to get the Old Testament disc too. Families will be grateful for the wonderful possibilities for group viewing and interaction, as well as solitary, thoughtful visits to the Holy Land.

With careful planning church school teachers could prepare inspiring lessons; pastors, exceptional devotionals and small group presentations. *Voyage* is a rich resource for the community of faith. ❧

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Charlton Heston's Voyage Through the Bible

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

The minimum Macintosh requirement is a Mac II, System 7.1, 8Mb RAM, color, 2X CD-ROM drive. *QuickTime Extension 2.1* is included.

The Windows operation recommends a 486, 16-bit color, 16-bit sound card, and 2X CD-ROM drive. *QuickTime for Windows* is included.

We enjoyed *Voyage* on a Pentium with an SVGA monitor in 32-bit color, surround sound, and a 6X CD-ROM drive. We also tried *Voyage* in Windows 3.1 (486/66, 8Mb RAM) on an older VGA monitor and 2X CD-ROM drive to see if the system degraded the program performance.

Yes, as expected, menus were slow to load, clicks to another story or another masterpiece brought slow response, and yes, the music in the opening and closing credits was broken into segments. Otherwise, the disc performed well. Heston's narration ran smoothly. The masterpieces were somewhat darker, but zoomed out to full screen. The video clips performed without a hitch in *Apple Quick Time*.

Voyage seems quite suitable for a wide range of equipment.

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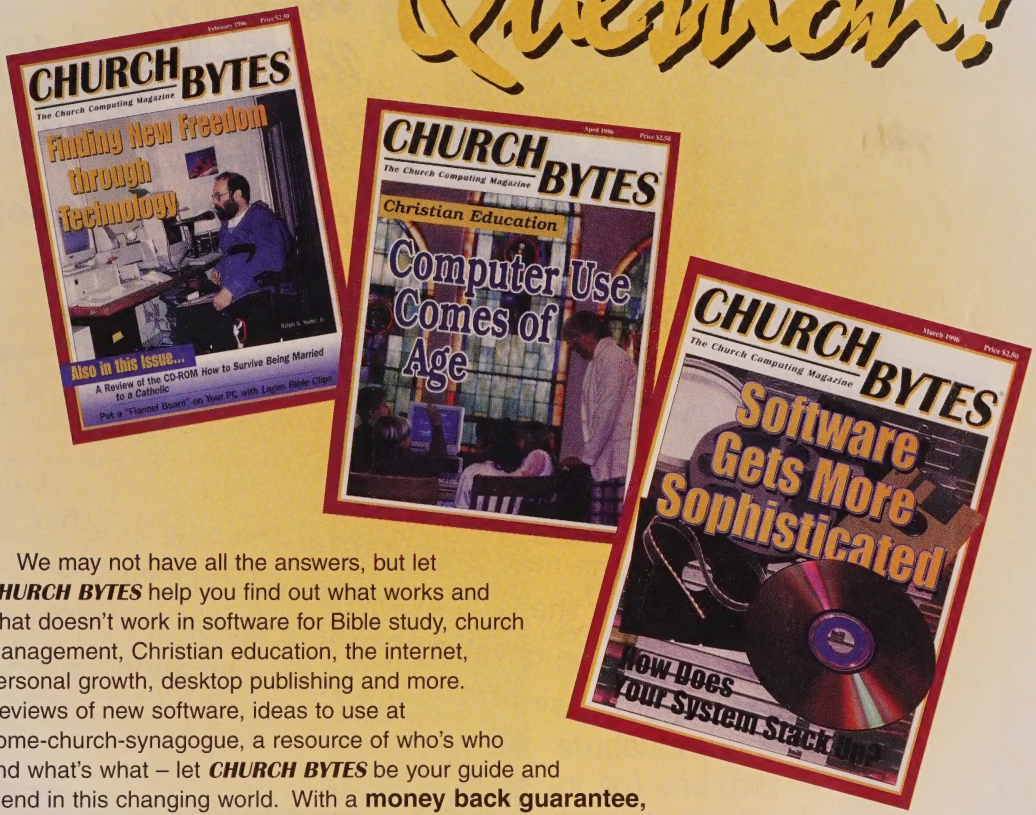

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To: Sunday school staff,
pastor, and church secretary,
St. Paul, UCC, LaPorte, Indiana

From: Marydel Frohne

Re: Computers for Christian Education

Aren't we fortunate! The new computer for the church office has been approved and the Sunday school will receive the old Packard Bell 286. The question is where do we go from here to make the best use of it in Christian education ministry?

My husband, Rev. Victor Frohne, and I recently retired and moved to LaPorte to live in our family home. At our former church in Bensenville, Illinois, the Sunday school began using computers nearly 12 years ago. The youngsters helped design some programs to accompany their lessons. In fact, we were able to watch one group of children begin as preschoolers with the computers and use them through their Confirmation studies. As the boys and girls grew so did the technology!

Through my articles in the ***CHURCH BYTES*** magazine I have been privileged to be in contact with other persons throughout the world who wanted to experiment with teaching through technology in the church. Now here in LaPorte I look forward to beginning a new venture with you. Last month I met with the Christian Education Committee of St. Paul to demonstrate some of the possibilities of teaching with computers. Now that our dream is being realized we

need to outline the necessary steps to begin using our computer.

First, we need to see that the church records on the old computer are properly saved on floppies and installed in the new computer. Because some of these files may be of sensitive nature, it would be best to completely remove them from the Sunday school's machine. Someone who knows both the computer and the old files should be asked to do this. Care must be taken not to lose any configuration or operating system files. Let's keep the word processor because it can be useful to us.

First, we need to see that the church records on the old computer are properly saved on floppies and installed in the new computer

Next, we need to decide where to locate the computer so all the classes can have access without disturbing each other. Some churches place the education computer in their library. An unused classroom, the quiet end of a hallway, or even a corner of the fellowship room are possible locations. What are our choices at St. Paul? An alternative plan is to purchase a cart so the computer can be wheeled from classroom to classroom.

Our computer will have a dot-matrix printer the church secretary told me. If we use the word processor or a greeting card and poster program, we will need this. If our church did not have a printer available, we certainly would want to set in motion some plan to acquire one. The most direct way is to ask members of the congregation if they have an unused printer in their homes or offices that they would donate. Otherwise we could consider purchasing a used one. These can be found for $30 and up.

Some of you asked me if one computer is enough for an entire Sunday school. I do happen to have an old Tandy 1000 and a couple of C-64's should we find that we want more, but my suggestion is to go with only one computer at first. One reason is that the best educational experiences occur when a group of students (up to 8 or so) and their teacher use the computer to spark a conversation that must reach a consensus about what to input. Christian education is a matter of understanding and getting along with other people.

Another reason to begin with the one computer is that every different old computer has different commands and has to have separate software. Right now we have enough to do to learn how to operate one machine and its software. Perhaps for activities in an extended time frame, such as a vacation church school or an alternate summer Sunday school, we will want to add another computer or two.

...the best educational experiences occur when a group of students (up to 8 or so) and their teacher use the computer to spark a conversation that must reach a consensus about what to input

When we met three of you indicated you use computers in your work and are no strangers to their operation. The kids, too, have grown up with computers at school and at home. Our daughter who teaches reading in a Chicago suburb says that her kindergarten to fourth grade students still enjoy the old Apple II's at school while babbling on about the neat new CD-ROM their parents bought them for Christmas. So at this time let's not be concerned that our Sunday school computer is obsolete!

When our computer is ready classes can schedule times for its use. At first they can use the word processor for a short, simple project—maybe a report about a Bible personality, maybe to compose a prayer, or even to copy a short Bible verse. Many youngsters begin 'keyboarding' (typing) soon after they learn to read. Kids are naturals and fearless about punching the buttons. Let them try! Teachers will need to choose something appropriate to the lesson. Your goal with the computer now is to see how well the students work together, one person at the keyboard and the others discussing and deciding what to key in.

The first piece of new software we will want to acquire is a greeting card. poster, and banner maker, as well as some religious clip art. There are many of these kinds of programs on the market. The 'Granddaddy' of them all is the venerable *Print Shop* by Broderbund which can be found in most software stores or mail order catalogs. Parsons Technology (800-223-6925) has a good, inexpensive program of this type designed for church use. There are also easily

obtainable shareware programs. When we are ready for this at St. Paul, I'll help find software.

Now the youngsters can begin productively using the computer in the mission of St. Paul's. The children could design and print valentines for the 24 shut-in members. At our former church in Bensenville we used felt markers to color most of the posters and cards we printed. This gave more kids a job and made the products very attractive. When the youth have another 'Slave Day' they could announce it to the congregation with a banner in the foyer. Posters could remind everyone of the noontime ecumenical Lenten Services. We will find many creative uses for this software.

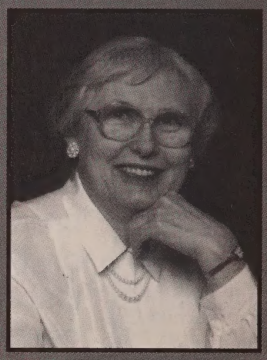
Last month at our meeting I showed you a few programs that can be used in class sessions to introduce church vocabulary, adventure with a Bible character, and drills on Bible books and passages. We will be able to find such programs for an older computer like our Packard Bell 286.

We can also watch the pages of ***CHURCH BYTES*** for reviews of software that we can use. Whenever we buy software we must be particularly careful to read the hardware specifications, because many of the available programs require much more computer power than we have. These may not run on our machine.

However, we have a computer and can be very proud that the congregation understands its value to our education program. Let's use it as productively as possible as a tool to share God's love. Let's keep in touch through these memos from time to time!

Christian education programs for the C-64 or any PC, whatever its age or microchip and memory, are available from Marydel at Church School Software, 512 E. Jefferson Street, LaPorte, IN 46350, 219-362-4018. Ask for a free catalog describing software specifically designed for use within the church school.

About the author...



Marydel Frohne, a contributing Editor of ***CHURCH BYTES*** and a pioneer in Christian education software for children, currently is helping her new church in LaPorte, Indiana to begin using a computer in the church school.

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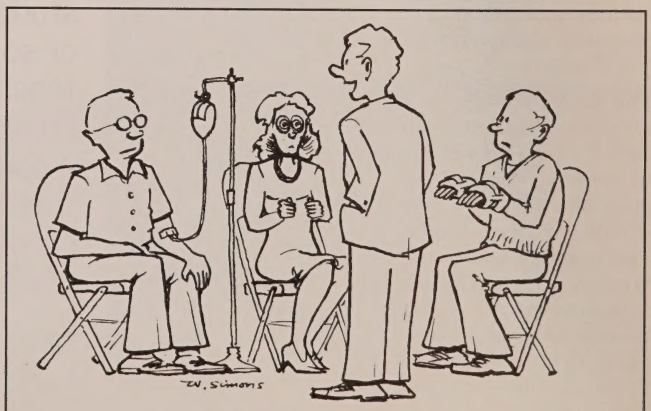


Asian Bibles Reflect Personal Commitment

Readers already know that Jubilee Tech International and Logos Research Systems offer *Logos Bible Study Software* in Korean, Japanese, and Chinese. Behind the scenes, we discovered, lies the dedication of Dr. Jay K. Yoo to the spread of God's Word in these languages. A naturalized US citizen, he is President of Jubilee Tech International, the exclusive distributor of Asian language versions of *Logos*.

The base package includes a modern translation in one native language, Korean (New Revised), Chinese (Union New Punctuation), or Japanese (Colloquial), plus the King James and American Standard Version in English. Also included are Strong's numbers and *Nave's Topical Bible*. The advanced package adds the other Asian language versions, the *Logos Bible Atlas*, and Greek and Hebrew Bibles with Tense, Voice and Mood analysis.

All products have a powerful search capability enabling the user to move freely throughout both the Old and New Testaments with searches based on word, phrase, or citation. The native language commands have the English cue letters underlined. Bible window references may be listed either in English or in the native language, for assistance to non-native speakers.

Each package operates in the respective foreign language version of Microsoft Windows. For example, Japanese *Logos* is not an English program running a Japanese translation of the Bible. It is the entire *Logos Bible Software* in Japanese operating under the Microsoft Japanese Windows operating system.

When we met Dr. Yoo at a Christian Computing Expo we knew that the fascinating story behind the software deserves telling. Yoo, a naturalized American, explains why he chose to spearhead development of *Logos* into Korean, Chinese, and Japanese.

> I was born of Korean parents in China in 1945, the Year of Jubilee (hence the name of the company). My father, imprisoned in Korea by the Japanese for three years in the 1930's, had fled to China upon his release. After World War II we moved back to Korea. I grew up in Korea and moved to the United States in 1970.

As a young man Yoo attended the top schools in Korea. Of his high school graduating class of 500, at least 100 now have doctorates. After earning his bachelor of engineering degree from Seoul National University, Yoo went on to obtain a Ph.D.

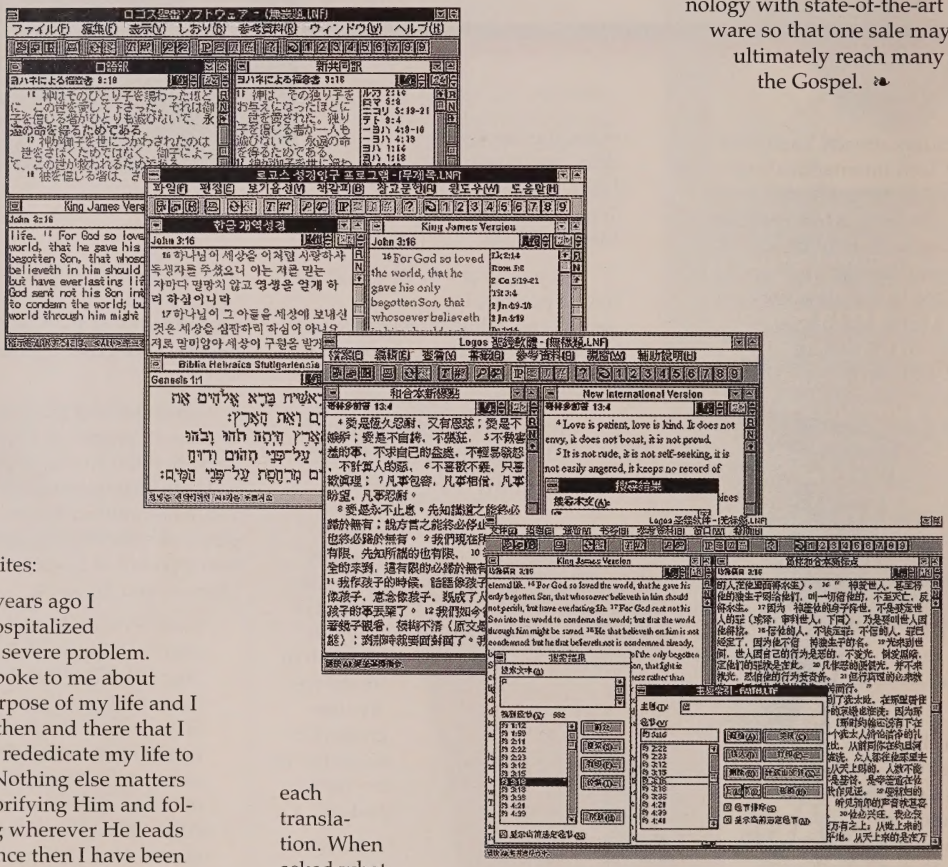
in electrical engineering from the University of Florida. For years in the engineering industry he specialized in military applications using computer imagery, was a senior researcher at M.I.T.R.E. (formerly MIT Research), and taught at Virginia Tech and Kent State Universities.

Dr. Yoo writes:

> Eight years ago I was hospitalized with a severe problem. God spoke to me about the purpose of my life and I knew then and there that I had to rededicate my life to Him. Nothing else matters but glorifying Him and following wherever He leads me. Since then I have been on numerous evangelistic crusades to Korea as an interpreter for an American evangelist. I am working on a Master of Divinity degree from Regent University. I especially want to see seminarians, scholars, Sunday School teachers, and missionaries in Far East Asia have the best possible resources available to reach the lost.

Yoo seems indefatigable in his efforts to prepare Oriental versions of *Logos*. He has also employed the efforts of native speakers from each country to ensure the readability of each translation. When asked what projects may be next, Dr. Yoo indicated that there have been requests for Vietnamese, Hindi, Malay, and Pin-Yin (Simplified Chinese with Roman alphabet transliteration, invaluable for missionaries to China). Jubilee Tech International also plans to localize other *Logos* products for Asian languages, including the newly released *Logos 2.0* CD-ROM series, *Strong's Concordance*, and various commentaries.

Motivated by the desire to see all people have an opportunity to come to the Lord, Dr. Yoo plans to provide translations in languages of countries which do not have adequate financial resources. He speaks of the potential for reaching key leaders who have access to technology with state-of-the-art software so that one sale may ultimately reach many with the Gospel. ❧



Article adapted, with permission, from an article prepared by the JTI staff, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.For product information call 804-467-1909 or fax 804-467-3149, 73304.3326@compuserve.com.

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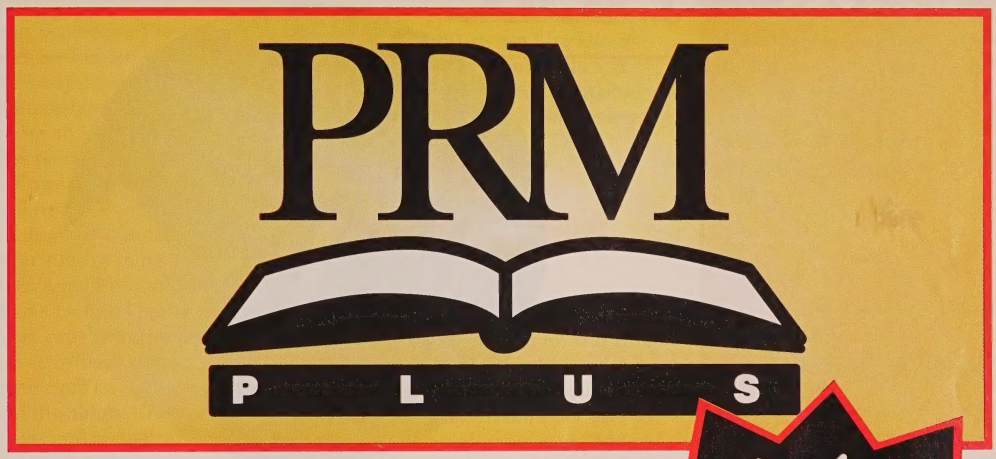

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Church Librarians Take Note

by
Marshall N. Surratt

Too much of a librarian's time is taken up by routine tasks—there are cards to prepare, labels to make, and lists to maintain. This article is for the librarian who wants to automate some of those tasks. Perhaps you want to create an online catalog or automate circulation. Maybe all your church or school library can afford now is the software to print catalog cards and spine and pocket labels. Whatever your circumstance, you can find an affordable program here.

Asking yourself some questions will help you decide which program might be best for you. How easy is a particular program for volunteers to use? How many items are cataloged weekly? If you only have a few, relax—you can find a low-cost program here that will do fine. At the other end, if cataloging is a huge chunk of the librarian's load, you can find programs that import records from databases that come already prepared. Finally, are there plans to put the library catalog online or to automate circulation someday? If so, does the program offer modules or an upgrade path?

Because of the number of programs available, the information given here can only suggest promising programs for your further investigation. Call the company for literature and any demo versions.

CardMaster Plus

Follett Software Company's program (DOS, $350) becomes especially robust when linked with Follett's family of USMARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) databases. (USMARC is the current standard for swapping information among top-level library software programs.) A cataloging program capable of pulling down information from CD-ROM databases (additional cost; the one sent us contained 567,023 records) could prove to be a timesaving boon for a large church or school that has on staff a professional librarian. (800-323-3397, IL)

Catalog Card and LabelWriter 6.0

With K-12 MicroMedia Publishing's software (DOS, Apple II, $199) you use the Alt key to toggle through menu items on a top bar and the Ctrl key to toggle through four menu options on the left side of the screen. Once I had figured out the toggle keys to get through the menus, everything else was simple. Within ten minutes I had assembled and printed a

catalog card. Windows and Macintosh versions are forthcoming. (201-529-4500, NJ)

Librarian's Helper 5.0

Since Scarecrow Press' first version of this product was introduced in 1985 the system (DOS, $250) has been a mainstay for small libraries. While easy to use, this program provides fields for almost everything. It provides up to five lines for a call number—useful for classification of audio-visual material and other sundry items that a church or school might collect. Librarian's Helper Online ($600) is powerful, capable of performing Boolean searches. Librarians will also appreciate its intuitive interface and the ability to make 'see also' cards and statistical reports. (800-462-6420, MA)

Library Manager 2.1

This Membership Services Inc. program (DOS, $495, $705 network), a quality program which is easy to install and use, provides cataloging, circulation control, and an online catalog. It particularly shines in its attention to different media types. Patrons can search the online catalog by subject, title or author and then group (and print) these lists by age code or profile codes. The circulation control is also impressive—allowing not only keyboard entry but also the ability to scan and create bar codes. (800-955-0805, TX)

The Library Program 3.0

The card template in Microcomputer Business Systems' software (DOS, $95) includes plenty of extras. I particularly appreciated the ability to pull up previous author, title, and subject entries when creating a catalog card. This program has lots of features. For example, the program can compile reports and track circulation and was the only program that can keep a list of items you want to order. A personal version, Personal Library Program ($49), doesn't handle circulation but can print cards and labels, produce an online catalog, and export records to *The Library Program*. (503-835-6712, OR)

Library Records and Library 1.3/1.5

Unlike the other programs reviewed here, *Library Records* from CROSS (DOS, $30) and *Library 1.3* (Windows, $50) do not produce cards or labels, do not offer as many information fields, and were the only programs not to include a printed manual (online manual can be printed). On the other hand, CROSS had the lowest-priced program—as well as the only one currently available in Windows. *Library 1.5* (Windows, $95) is not an upgrade but another level of features. The printed catalog card is not in AACRII format, i.e., the format that most catalog cards use (including all the other programs reviewed here). It may, however, be adequate for a small library and for personal libraries. A Windows 95 version is forthcoming. (610-262-3232, PA)

Master Library System 3.0

Master Library System is actually a series of DOS programs. Level I ($149) buys you the ability to create catalog cards and labels along with an accession list (with a limit of 1,000 titles). Level II ($449) has no limit on the number of bibliographic records and adds password protection plus an online catalog. Level III ($795) adds circulation control. At the top end, Level IV ($1,695) lets you both import and create USMARC records. Finally, a personal version is also available, the MLS Pastor's Study Resource ($199). Windows 3.1, Windows 95, and Macintosh versions are forthcoming. The company also offers a database emphasizing religion titles (up to 16,000 records at last count) and compatibility with Brodart Co.'s Precision One CD-ROM database of about 2 million titles. (800-892-4859, TN)

Media Library

If you are considering automating your church records, definitely consider *Media Library* (DOS, $500) for your library, one of 16 modules in the *Automated Church System*. Even as a stand-alone product, this is a powerful program—if you don't mind some extra work. In the card template some fields are predefined; most you must define by setting up tables for them. The system has particularly strong search and merge capabilities to give you nearly any kind of report you need. (800-736-7425, SC)

PC-Card Catalog: Professional 1.1

All of the basic information is in the DIAKON Systems software (DOS, $119), and some extras too, which can be ordered either as a total package (DOS, $119) or by individual modules ($49 each). Each of the three basic modules allows printing of an accession list: a cards/label module, a listing module, and a catalog module. A read-only 'Public Access' module ($30) allows patrons to use the online catalog, but there is currently no circulation module. This is a well-organized program, easy to install and use. (817-292-8413, TX)

Library Cataloging Software: Features

	Card-Master Plus	Catalog Card and Labelwriter	Librarian's Helper	Library Manager	The Library Program	Library Records/ 1.3/1.5[h]	Master Library System	Media Library	PC-Card Catalog: Professional
General									
RAM Needed	640K 480K free	640K	256K	512K	640K 530K free	512K DOS, 4-6MB Windows	640K 480K free	640K	512K
Disk Space for Installation	600K	700K	300K	1MB	2.5MB	3-5MB	3MB	4MB	300K
Password Protection				•	•	•	•	•	
Online Help	•			•		•	•	•	
Demo Copies Available			•	•	•		•	•	•[l]
Cataloging/Records[a]									
Imports MARC Records	•			add-on available			Level 4 only		add-on available
Creates MARC Records	•						Level 4 only		
Databases Available	•						•		
No. of Card Templates Provided	12	1	1	5	1	1 (1.5 only)	1	•[f]	1
At Least One User-Defined Field[b]	•			•	•			•	
At Least One Field for Media Type[c]	•	•		•	•	1.5 only	•	•	•
Field for ISBN[c]	•		•	•	•		•	•[f]	•
Field for LCCN[c]	•		•	•			•	•[f]	•
Space for Summary/ Annotations	•[f]	1 paragraph	4 paragraphs	2 lines	3 lines	1.5 only[i]	3,072 characters	5 lines	2 lines
No. of Subject Tracings Allowed	•[f]	5	10	5	6	2	unlimited[j]	unlimited	5
Field for Analytics	•	•	•	•	•		•	•[f]	
Preview Cards in WYSIWYG	•	•	•	•		•	•		
Can Produce Author-Title-Subject Lists	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•[m]
Can Produce "Shelf List"[d]	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•[m]
Can Produce Accession List	•	•	•	•	•	1.5 only	•	•	•
Can Produce "See Also" Cards			•[g]	•				•	
Prints Bookplates				•	•		k		
Compiles Orders					•				
Price for this Module[e]	$350	$199	$250	$495	$95	$30-$95	$149-$1,695	$500	$49/each module

[a]With the exception of Library 1.3, all can produce catalog cards and pocket and spine labels. [b]All of the fields are customizable in that the user can choose to rename them or use a field for another entry than that specified. This refers to fields specifically set aside for user definitions. [c]This refers to fields set aside for the media type, International Standard Book Number and Library of Congress Control Number. Other fields could be used for such. [d]This refers to the ability to print catalog cards or a list of items by order of call number. [e]In most cases, the cataloging/records features comprise the basic package. See separate reviews for further pricing information. In some cases, network versions may be extra. [f]This can be customized. [g]LH Online can make "see also" cards. [h]Library 1.3 and Library Records features are identical. [i]Library 1.5 has a comments field. [j]MLS allows an unlimited number of subject tracings up to 1,024 characters total. Subject listings are divided by a "/" mark. [k]A separate program is available. [l]A shareware version is available. [m]Available under the Listing module.

Library Cataloging Software: Features (continued)

	Card-Master Plus	Catalog Card and Labelwriter	Librarian's Helper	Library Manager	The Library Program	Library Records/ 1.3/1.5[n]	Master Library System	Media Library	PC-Card Catalog: Professional
Online Catalog[n]									
Online Catalog Features/Module/ Upgrade Available	Catalog Plus	n/a	LH Online	included	included	included	Levels 2-4	included	module
Keyword Searches	•		•	•		1.5 only	•		•
Boolean Searches (and, or, and not)	•		•				•	•	
Wildcard Searches	•					•	•		
Price for Module/ Upgrade	$1,595 single-user		$600	included	included	included	$449 (Level 2)	included	$49
Circulation									
Circulation Features/Module/ Upgrade Available	Circulation Plus	n/a	n/a	included	included	included	Levels 3-4	included	n/a
Scans Bar Codes	•			•			•	•	
Prints Bar Codes				•			k	•	
Maintains Patron List	•			•	•		•	•	
Records Check-outs	•			•	•	•	•	•	
Records Overdue Items	•			•	•	1.5 only	•	•	
Price for Module/ Upgrade	$995 single-user			included	included	included	$795 (Level 3)	included	

[n]With the exception of Library 1.3 and 1.5, all of the programs with online catalog features display a full catalog card on the screen, in either WYSIWYG or approximate WYSIWYG. Library 1.3 and 1.5 display information noted under Cataloging/Records and in the description.

Where to Inquire...

Follett Software Co.
1391 Corporate Drive
McHenry, IL 60050-7041
800-323-3397

K-12 MicroMedia Publishing
16 McKee Drive
Mahwah, NJ 07430
201-529-4500

Scarecrow Press
4720 Boston Way
Lanham, MA 20706
800-462-6420

Membership Services Inc.
PO Box 151230
Irving, TX 75015-2130
800-955-0805

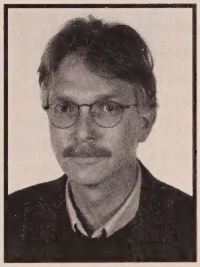
Church Related Online Software Systems (CROSS)
3449 Cherryville Road
Northampton, PA 18067
610-262-3232, crossys@aol.com

Master Library System
127 Ninth Avenue N. (MSN 160)
Nashville, TN 37234
800-892-4859
booksys@traveller.com
http://www.traveller.com/~booksys/

Media Library ACS
PO Box 3990
Florence, SC 29501-3990
800-736-7425, acs-info@cdi.mhs.compuserve.com

DIAKON Systems
3801 Glenmont Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76133-2955
817-292-8413, http://www.fastlane.net/~mceowen/diakon.htm

Microcomputer Business Systems
23450 SE Royal Anne Drive
Amity, OR 97101
503-835-6712



About the author...

After helping organize the Frisco, Texas, city library Marshall N. Surratt has chaired the library board for the past six years. This past year he also organized a library for his church, putting more than 500 titles online. When he isn't in a library he teaches journalism part time at the University of North Texas and writes about religion and media for magazines and newspapers.

Take a Trip to Qumran

This disc should be available in every church. . .

The Dead Sea Scrolls Revealed (CD-ROM, Mac or Windows) will lead you into the intriguing world of the scrolls with video clips, photos, illustrations, commentary, and lots of opportunities to click. Various sections of the program include history, beliefs, location, how the scrolls were written and how they were analyzed, the debates over the scrolls, their discovery, and the scrolls themselves. This colorful program brings comprehensive information about the Dead Sea Scrolls to both Macintosh and Windows users.

A multitude of video clips totaling well over an hour's time carry you into the Qumran buildings and grounds with computer reconstructions and simulated 3D tours, show the location of the Qumran ruins and the caves where the scrolls were found beginning in the late 1940's, and explain with excellent photography all aspects of the scrolls. You can let the videos play out or you can advance them frame by frame in order to catch the passing details.

As you work your way down through the menu levels you will discover video clips with narration explaining and describing a multitude of topics, such as the Sectarian Scrolls, ink and inkwells, tefillin, Masada in relation to Qumran, Philo, and the Roman Procurators.

Ancient City of Qumran

The list seems endless and the disc's greatest asset is its fascinating ability to lead you from related topic to related topic until your screen is full of cascaded windows.

Each time you open a new window, lists of topics of related interest lead you on! These tools are the 'Links Wall' and the 'Connections Palette.' Click to see related video clips or paintings or old line drawings or texts explaining something significant or a small map. Each topic on such lists has a distinctive icon so that you know whether it is video, text, etc. There must be hundreds of such items hidden away on the disc just waiting for the user to discover them.

When you click on a 'text' icon to read the explanation you can also click on words within the text to open the 'Glossary,' a dictionary of hundreds of one-sentence explanations of words, names, and scroll terminology. At times we wished for fuller explanations, but the 'Glossary' is excellent for beginners and for others who may become lost in the maze of terms special to the scrolls and their historical period. The 'Glossary' would be highly useful as a browsing tool if there were links between its entries and the rest of the program. For example, if you are reading the defini-

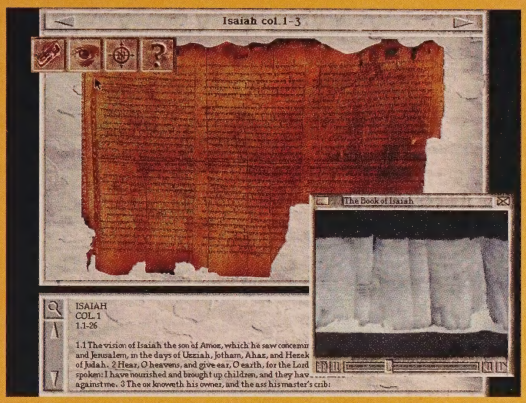
tion of 'Damascus Document,' wouldn't it be instructive to be able to run the video clip and display the scroll's photograph?

A 'Memory' button lets you determine whether you see just the unique default lists for such related topics or whether, in addition, they include a growing list of connections that depends on what you've studied already. You can even close out all the default topics and just view your own, which are automatically added as a result of your explorations.

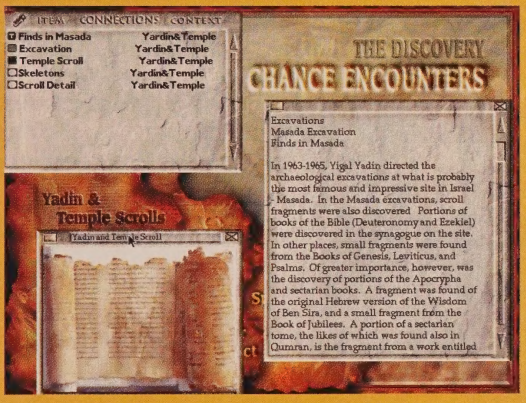
In the 'Gallery' of scrolls you can view excellent photographs of many scrolls and the scroll fragments. Below the photograph is another window with the translation text. By clicking you can read translations and descriptions. You can also open a close-up window for enlargements of certain portions of the scrolls. In addition, the 'Gallery' contains photos and descriptions of coins, pottery, personal articles, an inkwell, etc., nearly two dozen items in all found at Qumran.

The scroll photographs include over 20 photos of the Isaiah scroll and multiple views of scrolls containing Leviticus, Psalms, Deuteronomy, the Community Rule, the Temple Scroll, the Commentary on Habakkuk, the Genesis Apocryphon, and the War Scroll. Single photographs display the commentaries on Hosea and Nahum, the Copper Scroll, the Damascus Document, the Thanksgiving Scroll, Enoch, the Calendrical Scroll, and others. Many of the scroll views open with a video clip explaining the scroll, its discovery, and other interesting bits of information.

The program enables you to open multiple windows at once (depending on RAM) and to move in various directions seeking information. You could get lost. To prevent that the disc provides tools like 'Path' (click to move back where you came from one menu screen at a time), 'Navigation Palette,' and 'Marker Palette.' The 'Marker Palette' lets you see a list of any windows that you had opened and clicked to mark before you closed them. Click on any one of your entries and you display that window again. Of course, you can delete items on your palette.



Isaiah Scroll



Masada Excavations

The program's windows cannot be resized so that means you cannot zoom in and out on a picture that really catches your attention. The videos are played in a small window (2.5x3.5"). All the windows open are moveable and as you learn to navigate through this rich treasure house you'll keep windows open but moved off to the side to speed up operations if you are using a double speed CD-ROM drive. Once a window is opened, having drawn on the CD disc, one click brings it immediately to the foreground for viewing and use. The disc provides no facilities to copy text or print any material in order to protect a multitude of copyrights.

You may wish for an overall menu list in addition to the main menu and the various sub-menu screens so that you could click on any item on the disc and view it. This would allow a second and third visit to the disc, for example, to be more directed. Furthermore, a teacher could click on a particular item rather than move through a series of displays. The hundreds of photographs, illustrations, text windows, maps, video clips, etc., are lost unless, and until, you have worked through multiple layer menus.

The 'Gallery' also would benefit from a menu that listed all the

items. Without it you must click through the cycle of nearly one hundred photographs to get to what you want, if you had not 'marked' an item earlier. The disc is fun to use when you click on 'Connections' or use 'Links Wall' to take you to related materials. Each time you undertake an exploration you'll understand the whole subject more clearly from different perspectives. Nevertheless, the disc should also allow the user to move directly to any of its parts, in addition to fascinating wandering.

The Dead Sea Scrolls Revealed is not a mystery story but an interesting way to lead you to consider all of the hundreds of interrelated pieces of information (text, pictures, and video). The disc comes as the fruit of a team effort. All the credits take two pages in the tiny manual. The original text was written by Dr. Ronny Reich, Senior Archaeologist, Israel Antiquities Authority, according to the program originally conceived by Aaron Witkin. The disc is produced by Pixel Multimedia, London, and marketed by Logos Research Systems under the exclusive license of the Israel Antiquities Authority.

The Dead Sea Scrolls Revealed is an excellent CD-ROM with a wealth of riches. The program expertly introduces the scrolls with photographs, narration, text, and video clips. This disc should be available in every church for educational purposes. If you've read a little about the scrolls in the news but wondered how important they are for our understanding of the Bible, you'll find a great deal of pleasure in learning more about them with this program. ❧

The Dead Sea Scrolls Revealed ($59.95) is available from Logos Research Systems, 2117 200th Avenue West, Oak Harbor, WA 98277, 360-679-6575, 800-87-LOGOS (orders), 360-675-8169 fax.

The Dead Sea Scrolls Revealed
Equipment Requirements

The Dead Sea Scrolls Revealed requires Windows 3.1, 4Mb RAM, SVGA monitor and driver, 1Mb video RAM, and a Soundblaster compatible sound card. Logos recommends a 486sx33 with 8Mb RAM.

We tried the program on two computers to better understand the equipment requirements. With a quad speed CD-ROM drive running on a Pentium 75 we were delighted with the ease of clicking, moving to new information, exploring, etc. Such operation invites the exploration and learning you would expect from a multimedia CD-ROM.

On a 486DX2/66 (8Mb RAM) with a dual speed CD-ROM drive we found things usable but slow, perhaps disappointing to some, with the "normal" 2Mb of *Scrolls* installed on the hard disk drive. After re-installing with the high performance option (17.5Mb on the hard drive) the program clearly ran faster for a more satisfactory operation. The manual states that this option would also be good for PCs with less than 8Mb of RAM.

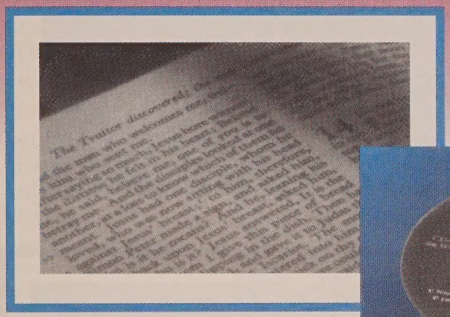
The program explicitly states that a SVGA monitor is required, but the manual recommends 8 bit PC operation (256 colors) not 16 bit (thousands of colors). On a VGA monitor (.28 dot pitch, with a new video card, 1MB accelerator, and special video driver) showing 256 colors the results were satisfactory. On SVGA monitors running with 16 or 24 bit color the pictures and videos were excellent, clear, detailed, and attractive.

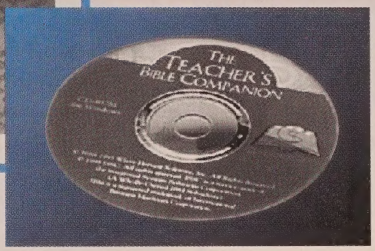
Macintosh users can allocate from 3Mb to 20Mb of RAM and up to 20Mb of hard disk drive to optimize operation on an LC III or better. *QuickTime* extension 1.6.1 (included), not 2.0, must be used. PowerPC users must turn off Modern Memory Management and use the *QuickTime* 1.6.1 power plug. Using over 5.5Mb of RAM enables you to display 16 bit color to improve the quality of the videos.

On the PC later versions of *QuickTime* can be used but other versions of *QuickTime* installed by other multimedia programs may cause conflicts.

The amount of RAM affects how many of the media windows you can have open at the same time. Being able to open only several media windows with 8Mb of RAM does not prevent you from using the program. Mac users can also use "expanded memory."

DISCS, DESKTOPS, & CD-ROM BIBLES





A Review of *The Bible Companion Series* from Bible Companion Software

The Bible Companion Series CD-ROM for Windows, known to many readers from its earlier versions as "SeedMaster", brings to your screen a rich variety of capabilities in addition to an extensive list of Bible versions and reference works. The *Family Bible Companion* ($129) includes 11 Bible versions, a Greek text, five commentaries, and nine topical and lexical tools. With the *Student* ($219) and *Teacher's* ($349) discs the list of resources grows. At the time this issue went to press, Loizeaux Brothers, Inc. was in the process of acquiring *BCS* from White Harvest and ISSC, a wholly owned subsidiary of IBM.

Cooperating hard disk & CD-ROM

Although it takes the entire side of the package just to list the contents of *The Teacher's Bible Companion* a particular strength of this CD-ROM Bible study program is that you can use these databases in any combination of CD-ROM and hard drive cooperation. We chose to load several of our favorite Bibles and a lexicon on to the hard disk. Then we could listen to a music CD while we worked in *BCS*!

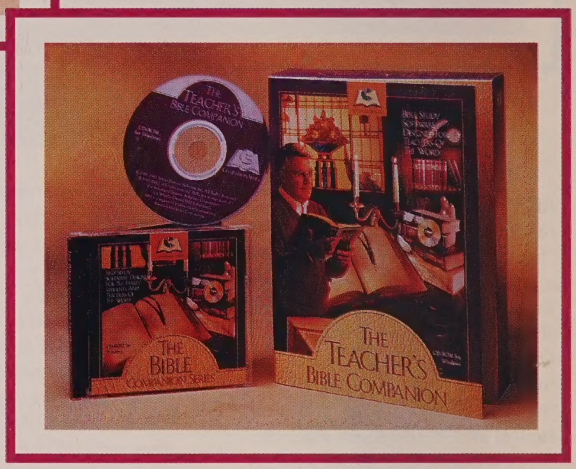
More importantly, for example, if you are working on a Bible study outline in your word processor and want to check out some words and references in the computer Bible you don't need to get out the *BCS* CD-ROM disc and load it. Simply click up *BCS*, search on a word, pursue a study, and when you are finished click back to your word processor. When you need to refer to some of the many commentaries and topical studies, you load the disc. You have the best of two worlds!

In addition, *BCS* lets you choose "fast access" that copies indexes of just those Bible databases which you select from the CD-ROM to your hard drive. You may find this useful if you use Strong's numbers with the KJV or with the NASB Bibles, because when you use them you are searching two databases at the same time. You won't need this option at all on a fast Pentium but users of slower machines and slower CD-ROM drives will appreciate the option. We wished "fast access" would also apply to the Matthew Henry commentary, for example. Even on a fast Pentium and fast CD-ROM drive it took 30 seconds to find 'gracious' in the commentary.

A really superior implementation of CD-ROM and hard drive cooperation is that *BCS* always looks for the database first on the hard drive and then on the disc, so that without asking for it you get the fastest operation no matter where you have set up your databases. Such *BCS* features enable you to select the best combination for your computer resources, no matter what computer (386, 4Mb RAM minimum), how large or small a hard disk drive (about 1Mb

...you can use these databases in any combination of CD-ROM and hard drive cooperation

BCS is well endowed with tools to provide support for many levels of Bible study



for the program), and how fast a CD-ROM drive.

In addition, you can specify the sub-directory or folder where you want your personal notes and cross references stored. You can also direct *BCS* to your word processor and to the *PC Bible Atlas*, a stunning collection of maps from Parsons Technology, an optional add-on. Both appear as icons on the ribbon bar, along with the Windows Notepad, Clipboard, etc.

Impressive study tools

BCS is well endowed with tools to provide support for many levels of Bible study. We can only point out a selected few to illustrate the potential, but these are standouts in the computer Bible world.

First, *BCS* searches come in three kinds. Searches on words and phrases in which you can easily and quickly choose from word lists. Searches on all the topics databases at the same time, including your own. And, searches with statistics that show, in descending order of use, the percentage of use. For example, of all the verses in the Bible that contain one or more instances of the word 'grace,' Romans has 16%, Ephesians, 10%, Acts, 9%, etc. If you wish, you can click to see a statistical breakdown chapter by chapter.

In addition to the three types of searches, a GoTo button lists all the books of the Bible, and Apocrypha if the active database includes it, so that you can switch to any text without having memorized the biblical order. With GoTo you don't need to know how many chapters and verses a particular book has. That's a friendly tool!

Second, *BCS* enables you to record and search on your own personal notes and cross references. Within your cross references and notes you can set up hypertext jumps to Bible passages. A special button allows you to switch between a read-search-hypertext-links mode to an editing mode for any of the topics or commentaries, as well as your own. You can edit Vine's topics, for example, and even add a new hypertext cross reference. All it takes is a # sign before a scripture reference. When you switch back to the hypertext mode (read only), a click on the reference (now highlighted) opens a Bible window to that verse. That's a powerful tool!

Third, *BCS* provides four desktops to which you can change with a click on the ribbon bar. These cannot be saved; however you last left each desktop will be what you see when you again start work with *BCS*. Such desktops are handy for work in progress. You can name them. For example, you might be working with Greek, a lexicon, and an English text on one desktop,

with a commentary and a different English Bible on another, and on a cross reference study on a third. If you were to open only two windows in each desktop, that's a total of 8 windows open; if three windows, a total of 12 open. That's just like having a huge table in your study, kitchen computer corner, or office with a dozen books opened on it. That's a convenient tool!

Fifth, the 'colorizing' or highlight markers come in six colors. Click coloring on, then a color, then any word in a verse and the entire verse is colored. If you have synchronized windows (all move together) the same verse is colored in all the windows, even Greek and Hebrew. You can click to the next or previous colored verse, of the color you choose. You can turn the colors off and on (all, not one) yet preserve them or you can de-colorize a particular verse. You can move to the next or previous verse with a particular color highlight. You can use the colors to select text for printing or for copying to the Clipboard. That's a flexible tool!

Sixth, we explored the *Teacher's* disc, including Biblical Hebrew which we copied to the hard disk from add-on diskettes. Greek and Hebrew fonts, which are included seem clear and readable, even with vowel points and breathing marks. *BCS* enables you to view an English Bible and the Hebrew, for example, in side-by-side vertical windows, or horizontal windows, or cascaded windows, or in interlinear fashion with the two Bibles alternated on screen verse by verse. The interlinear dialog box makes it easy to select just which combinations of Bibles you want included in an interlinear display (up to five). Then, whenever you click the interlinear button on the ribbon bar, those Bibles appear in a window without disturbing the other windows you may have open. That's an incredible tool!

Finally, the *BCS* print, copy, and word processing dialog boxes offer many useful options. For printing these include margins, verse by verse or paragraph form, interlinear form, printing a contiguous range, printing any set of the verses you have colored (six color sets), and whether to include your personal comments, your own cross references, and Strong's numbers. You can even set up printer fonts (in a separate dialog box) different from those set up for the screen displays, a handy recognition by *BCS* that these are two different visual media!

Greek and Hebrew fonts seem clear and readable, even with vowel points and breathing marks

When you first click the Edit button to copy to the Clipboard, you will be amazed! You can choose to append rather than replace what is currently in the Clipboard. You can choose options like those for printing. You can choose which commentaries to include with the Bible passages, including your own. You can choose RTF (rich text format) or not and even determine how many Hebrew characters to a line, right to left.

When we entered Ctrl-Shift-S while working within *Word for Windows* a dialog box opened giving us all of the above Clipboard choices, choice of Bible version, choice of personal cross references, and range such as Matt 2:3-7. Click and everything appears in the *Word* document. These are excellent tools!

More help from 'Help'

BCS will reward the user who persists in learning. We did not always find the help indexes to be thorough. For example, you won't find 'hypertext modes' or 'rotate Window content' in the Help index, yet those are basic operations on the ribbon bar. Another ribbon bar button associated with the highlight colors is to "Use Default Verse Background", which means to de-colorize a verse. The Help index had no reference to the operation. Furthermore, wouldn't 'remove highlight' or 'remove verse color' be simpler? We couldn't find 'Paste Sel,' an option in the search dialog box, in the *BCS* help, but it is a significant tool for searching in languages other than English. It means that if you have clicked and dragged on a Hebrew word, for example, in the Bible view window, you can click up a search dialog box, click on the 'Paste Sel' button, and the Hebrew word is entered for searching.

At places, frankly, we did find *BCS* awkward to learn and use. For example, we'd like a choice of AND/OR searching in the search dialog box itself, not in another place where it is 'toggled' on or off (under 'Words' on the ribbon bar). Again, the number of different kinds of windows may be confusing until you have them sorted out. A search in a 'topical' window, for example, searches all the reference works; a search in a 'commentary' window does not.

In some way *BCS* might prompt the user that the right mouse button is a key to many operations, prompt the user that Ctrl-PageDown (why not a mouse click) moves to the next Bible passage in a reference list resulting from a search, and provide the user a

convenient way to click through the Bible book by book. You can do the latter from the keyboard, why not with the mouse?

Fortunately, the tutorial video (67 minutes) offers an excellent place to begin with *BCS*. The explanations and demonstrations are clear and will help you to work your way through the numerous options. It's the quickest way to making the best use of the array of tools. View it first!

As with any good software we'd always like more! One feature suggests still another useful operation. For example, we'd like to save different working options in different desktops, not just what was on the desktop when we last used it. That might have been a confusion when we left it! The same goes for the bookmarks which now are just added to a list of 20 references. When you add more than 20 the top of the list drops off. This bookmark list is a handy way to jump back and forth to passages found during a study session, but bookmarks are not saved unless you stay within the 20 on the list.

Synchronizing the Bible, lexical, and commentary windows is an important key to the successful use of *BCS*. It is this that integrates these three kinds of resources. But wouldn't it be helpful, for example, if you could also choose to have some windows synchronized, but not all. For example, you might wish to have one Bible window continue to display John's gospel while the others display a synchronized study of an Old Testament passage in several windows.

While *BCS* has several excellent Greek and Hebrew texts we didn't find any direct connection between the Greek NT text and a lexicon, except through Strong's numbers with either the KJV or NASB. Where an entry of a Greek word is called for there is no visible chart of transliteration values between the English keyboard and the Greek letters. To view that you must click on the help button in the dialog box you are in, then click on the help index, then enter 'Greek,' and finally click again to see the equivalences. Shouldn't those simply open in a box side by side within the search window for convenience?

Other features

Even with this exploration of the *BCS* tools we haven't touched upon alphabetical word list searches, footnotes displayed with a Bible text, searches on Strong's numbers or Greek or Hebrew or Spanish words, backward searches, highlighting a word you choose throughout the Bible, merging search results, editing a commentary and adding your own hypertext scripture references, using the Windows Clipboard and Notepad, Hebrew morphology separators in the text, Gramcord NT verb parsings, Strong's word parsings, DDE links, and more.

BCS also integrates to *The Inductive Bible Study Companion Add-on*, another Windows CD-ROM, which provides Precept study tools. These include a full palette of colors and some 180 symbols to mark up text, charts based on the mark-ups, lists of user defined cross references, a personal lexicon of word studies, and activities in the interactive *Precept Upon Precept* electronic workbooks.

For a feature rich study Bible which offers many Bible versions and languages, as well as a wide variety of Bible reference tools, you will want to consider *The Bible Companion Series*.

Windows®

Contact Bible Companion Software, a ministry of Loizeaux Brothers, P.O. Box 277, Neptune, NJ 07753, 800-526-2796, fax 908-922-9487
E-mail 76375.3720@compuserve.com

BCS Databases Currently Available From Bible Companion Software

Modern English Bibles

NIV, NKJV, NRSV, RSV with Apocrypha, NASB, NASB Update, and International Children's Version

Classic English Bibles

KJV, ASV, British Basic, Darby's Translation, Weymouth NT, and Young's Literal Translation

Foreign Language Bibles

Spanish 1909 Reina Valera, French Louis Segond, and German 1912 Luther

Greek Texts

Greek Textus Receptus, Greek NT UBS 4th Edition, Gramcord Parsed Greek NT, LXX Septuagint, and Biblica Hebraica Stuttgartensia

Lexical Resources

Vine, Strong's Numbers in KJV with verb parsings, Brown Driver Briggs condensed, Thayer, NAS Exhaustive Concordance with Strong's numbers (for NASB), Greek NT Dictionary (UBS)

Commentaries

Matthew Henry (both Concise and Unabridged), Second Coming Bible, People's NT, Schofield Notes (original), Treasury of Scripture Knowledge, New Bible Commentary, Robertson's Word Pictures, NASB footnotes, cross references, and updates

What's New in Mac Clip Art

Graphic from T/Maker. Format: EPS

by Kay Hall

In the beginning there was *MacPaint*. This revolutionary graphics program, though primitive by today's standards, helped attract non-computer users to the Macintosh in droves. The wide availability of *MacPaint* clip art made it easy to create great looking documents and we all loved the feeling of becoming "artists" overnight.

Today's computer clip art is a far cry from that of the *MacPaint* era. Christian clip art, in particular, has greatly improved in the last few years, and more and more of it is being offered in Mac-compatible form.

T/Maker, whose early *MacPaint* format Christian Images package got high marks for quality and content, has made those same images available in high resolution and in color. The new incarnation, *Christian Illustrations*, comes with a converter program that allows you to export any of the images in your choice of EPS, PICT or native Adobe Illustrator format. This makes the T/Maker product a good choice no matter what kind of printer or software you're using. In addition to *Christian Illustrations*, which contains over 200 images, there are three more collections aimed at the church market: *Sunday School & Bible Studies*, *Church Bulletins* and *Newsletters and Christian Holidays*. You'll want all of them, especially since the 'Visual Index for Christian Illustrations,' somewhat misleadingly, shows all the images.

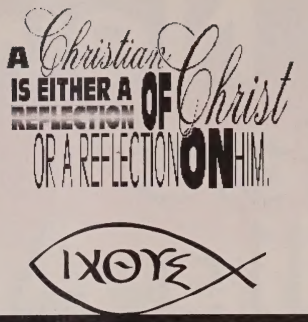
Broderbund's *Christian Images Folio* is promoted as an add-on to their popular *Print Shop Deluxe* software. It features the same exporter as in the T/Maker product, though, so the images become available in EPS, PICT or Illustrator format as well. An aside: I got curious and tried the T/Maker art with *Print Shop Deluxe* and discovered that it worked just like other native *Print Shop* art.

Graphic from Broderbund. Format: EPS

A unique selection of EPS art is available from Swan Lake Communications. These stylized phrases, headings and Bible verses, designed by a pastor with an eye for artistic interpretation, are practical as well as beautiful.

Gospel Light's *Church Bulletin Clip Art Book*, one of the most popular hard copy clip art books, is now available on disk. The images have been scanned and saved in TIFF format and you also get the printed book. The artwork is attractive, but I was a little disappointed at the sloppy cropping of images which left wide and uneven borders around the images.

Communications Resources, a long time provider of traditional clip art to churches, has been busy updating its artwork. The latest sample I got from them showed a marked improvement over the somewhat predictable images I looked at several years ago. They have also added some CD-ROM-based clip art products to their lineup.



Graphics, clockwise from top center: Swan Lake, EPS; Gospel Light, PICT; MeisterDesign, PICT; Mission Media, TIFF

The *Church ArtWorks Art Source Collection* from Zondervan remains the top choice for youth-oriented art. These hilarious cartoon style images in TIFF format can't be beat for getting the attention of young people.

Liguori Publications has released several volumes of Catholic clip art in PICT format, including one that is part of their *Kid Collection*.

If your publications require historically accurate line drawings of Biblical characters and events, keep an eye out for *The Nazareth Collection, Volume One*, by Arcadia Graphics. These high resolution TIFF files were created based on the original pen and ink illustrations of artist Andre Le Blanc, illustrator of *The Picture Bible*.

Proclaim Communications has products which function as clip art, perhaps, but are not in the usual clip art formats. Their *Inspiration Images* is a 3 CD-ROM set of photographs with a Christian theme, useful both for printed publications and multimedia presentations. *Faith Ornaments* is their set of Christian symbols presented as a font, both Type 1 and TrueType.

Sources

Arcadia Graphics
361 Goodhill Rd., Weston, CT 08883
203-226-2363 • 203-226-7764 fax
vivian4949@aol.com

Broderbund
P.O. Box 6121, Novato, CA 94948
800-521-6263 • 415-382-4419 fax

Zondervan Advanced Media
5300 Patterson SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49530
616-698-6900 • 800-727-7759
zondervan@aol.com

Communications Resources
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216-493-7897 fax
73144.3650@compuserve.com

Gospel Light Publications
P.O. Box 3875, Ventura, CA 93006
805-644-9721 • 805-644-4729 fax

Liguori Publications
One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057
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800-325-9526 fax

Proclaim Communications
8611 Wippoorwill Lane
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Swan Lake Communications
P.O. Box 6687, Jackson, MS 39282
601-372-7305
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T/Maker
1390 Villa St., Mountain View, CA 94041
415-691-7796 • 800-395-0195 ❧

About the author...

Kay Hall, author of *The Ministry Macintosh*, has extensive experience with Macintosh computers of Apple Computers, Inc. She sets her own Mac to use for her church and to write the numerous articles she's published.

Macintosh Clip Art Formats

At the risk of oversimplifying, let me say that there are basically two types of art in the Macintosh world for paint and draw. Paint art is bitmapped, meaning it is described within the computer by individual pixels, or screen dots. Draw art, or vector art, is described by mathematical equations for the shapes and patterns that make up an image.

Today **TIFF (for Tagged Image File Format)** is the prevailing bitmap format for Macintosh graphics. TIFF is frequently used with scanned images because it is excellent for capturing fine detail. The disadvantages are that TIFF files are large and that loss of resolution will occur when images are enlarged. Editing TIFF images is painstaking, but can be accomplished with many graphics applications.

Encapsulated PostScript, or EPS, is the most popular mathematically based format for Macintosh graphics. EPS graphics can be scaled extensively and will print perfectly without 'jaggies' provided you have a PostScript printer. EPS files can only be edited with certain advanced illustration programs.

PICT is another Macintosh clip art format which usually consists of vector art. But PICT files can also contain bitmaps and even some EPS components. Before choosing a clip art package, check your graphics, word processor, and page layout program to see which formats they can use. PICT is the Mac's internal format and consequently is supported by all Mac software. Most newer software releases support both EPS and TIFF, but this was not so with older products. Ask the clip art vendors or, if possible, try sample images before making a purchase.

Join Jesus in Jerusalem

Experience Jesus' last week

Conflict in Jerusalem, a Windows adventure game, helps you pretend that you are in Jerusalem during the last week of Jesus' life. The colors, diagrams, maps, information, alternatives, helps, hints, and much more, are attractive, entertaining, and related to the times of Jesus. Overall this simulation of Jerusalem about 30 A.D. contains nearly 120 illustrated locations. There's even an online Reference Encyclopedia with articles about almost everything in the game, including terms, locations, key people, and customs.

When you begin an adventure you set the events of Jesus' last week into motion within the computer, hour by hour, no matter what you do on screen. What can you do? You can wander about seeing the sights, reading the location descriptions, and looking up key features in the Reference Encyclopedia. You can locate and follow Jesus and his party. You will meet representative characters and you can ask them about events you have witnessed. You can move about Bethany, the Garden of Gethsemane, the upper room, the home of John Mark, the houses of a Pharisee and a priest, Herod's palace, a synagogue, a yeshiva, etc.

Dots move on the map to show where you are. Time of day is tracked (you can speed up the passage). Move from location to location by clicking on 'NEWS' buttons. Gain entry to houses, caves, or secret passages by clicking on the door or entrance. Besides the picture of where you are another box shows a text description to assist your adventure. You can visit various areas such as the temple and the market place, and at midnight you are whisked away to your own house to sleep, where you may also change disguises.

If you wish, a guided tour simulation takes you from Bethany at the house of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus to follow Jesus on Palm Sunday and speak to Ya'acov the Disciple and other characters. You move your red dot on the map to keep up with Jesus' purple dot. In guided simulation and in a real game events change according to the clock no matter what you are doing. The events move through the time of the last supper, trials, and empty tomb. There are hints and map dots to locate other characters during a game, but you incur penalties if you make use of these.

As you move about Jerusalem and its environs you also meet Hochanan the Zealot, Sim'on ben Ha'acov, a pilgrim, Miriam, a Pharisee, a priest, a tax collector, a Sadducee and Rachel his daughter, and Quintius Artios, a soldier.

The game keeps track of your score and how much of the adventure you have completed. You can save and re-load a particular game. Several pre-loaded games let you begin well along, for example at the crucifixion, to let you see what an advanced stage in the adventure looks like. A variable speed function lets you play games of from 1-2 hours to 6-8 hours in length. At the medium speed 60 seconds of play represents one hour real time during Jesus' last week.

. . .disguises which you assume include those of a soldier, a Pharisee, a Sadducee, a priest, and a pilgrim

Disguises which you can assume include those of a soldier, a Pharisee, a Sadducee, a priest, and a pilgrim. These are important to the

game, gaining you special access in each, so you do not play the entire adventure in one disguise. You must return to your house to change disguises, of course, after you first discover where it is located! The player disguises are all male, because, according to the game's authors, "the society of the time was male-dominated; consequently, it would have been impossible to enter many of the locations" or talk to the various characters. Perhaps, however, with a little imaginative license we could have had a wealthy wife of an important official in the game, for example, or a servant women nearby when Peter denies the Master.

When you click on the Bible you see relevant texts in the four Gospels for some 30 phases of the last week of Jesus' life. In addition there are buttons to click for reference materials, from Edersheim's *The Life & Times of Jesus the Messiah* (1896), Wenham's *Easter Enigma* (1992), Wilkinson's *Jerusalem as Jesus Knew It* (1978), Morison's *Who Moved the Stone* (1930), and Forster and Marston's *Reason and Faith* (1989).

Adventuring in biblical times takes on a new sophistication with *Conflict in Jerusalem*. Without requiring the use of a CD-ROM for special effects, the game should provide hours of fun and many opportunities to explore learning about the last week of Jesus' life. ❧

Windows®

Conflict in Jerusalem ($49.95), is a product of Colonnade Technologies, a subdivision of Logos Research Systems, 2117 200th Avenue West, Oak Harbor, WA 98277, 360-679-6575, 800-87-LOGOS (orders), 360-675-8169 fax.

The game requires Windows and 4Mb of hard disk space. A sound card is optional.

Ergonomics is for Real

Take responsibility for a healthy workplace

by Gayle Hilligoss

An entire field of biotechnology is devoted to the study of office design and planning ergonomics. Secretaries have long recognized appropriate lighting, proper seating, and climate control as important to their safety and comfort. Technology has created other valid concerns, medically known as cumulative trauma disorders (CTDs). They include the full range of repetitive stress injuries (RSI), carpal tunnel syndome being the most common, as well as ailments caused by radiation from electronic or electromagnetic equipment.

With new regulations in place from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, ergonomics is one of the more pressing of today's business concerns. Fortunately awareness has increased along with the volume of ergonomically designed work products available. Secretaries are expected to be instrumental in identifying potential problems in their own work styles and correcting them. Nevertheless, the responsibility for providing solutions rests solely with employers.

Stella Lykins PCS of Buffalo NY writes, "There definitely is something to ergonomics. I spend several hours a day entering computer data for the churches in our district. I had previously used a typewriter and didn't realize how much more stressful computer keyboarding is—no 'rests' at the end of each line; no removing each page as it is finished—until I developed a painful RSI (repetitive stress injury). My carpal tunnel syndrome could have been avoided by having proper and well placed computer furnishings, practicing good posture, and using sensible work habits. I urge every church to do what is necessary to make the office a healthier place to work."

Techniques to prevent carpal tunnel syndrome.

- Position the keyboard so your elbows are at a 90 degree angle to it.
- Keep wrists straight or neutral allowing them to float above the restpad, not rest on it.
- Adjust chair so your lower back is supported, your feet rest comfortably on the floor or foot rest, and your thighs are parallel to the floor.
- Alternate computer work with other tasks to prevent long hours at the keyboard.
- Pause at least once every thirty minutes to stretch your hands and upper body. ❧

Gayle Hilligoss is Editor of *PROfile: The Church Office Professional's Information Source*, an excellent bimonthly newsletter. Reprinted with permission from the January-February 1996 issue. Other articles in that issue covered filing management, records retention, dozens of tips and products, and "Staying Afloat in a Sea of Requests." Contact Gayle at 816-524-8161.

From Our Canadian Correspondent

by Greg Slade

Everybody at First Baptist Church in Vancouver has heard of Ray and Edna-May Slade, my parents. Their mission trips to Eastern Europe are becoming the stuff of First Baptist legend and are doing much to dispel the notion that ministry, much less life, ends at 65. In fact, their mission trips only began after Ray retired.

Even as this issue goes to press my parents are in Croatia once again, working with refugees at the Life Centre in Crikvenica and helping to coordinate construction crews, including members from First Baptist and other Vancouver churches.

People at First Baptist flock around the information table in the church hall after the worship service to read the latest reports from the scene. My parents send these reports through the Internet to me and I fax them in to the church office.

However, you don't have to go to First Baptist or wait until Sunday to find out what Ray and Edna-May are up to. I have created a 'mailing list' on the Internet. Anyone who can receive Internet mail can get reports as often as my parents send them.

To subscribe to the mailing list, send Internet e-mail to [hub@xc.org]. In the body of your message put these commands on two lines (observe the <> and ( ) marks):

subscribe cbv-croatia <your address> (your name)
end

For example, if I were to subscribe, I would write:

subscribe cbv-croatia <camsoc @xc.org> (Greg Slade)
end

The reason for putting 'end' on a line by itself at the end of your message is so that the mailing list server knows that you are finished sending commands.

If you are on the Internet this is just one of the many ways you can get news from the mission field "as it happens." The Internet is beginning to make it easier to remember to pray for Ray and Edna-May and other missionaries around the world.

CAMsoc News

The Computer Aided Ministry Society (CAMsoc), based in Vancouver, BC, started in November, 1988, to facilitate communication between Christians interested in using computers in the service of Christ.

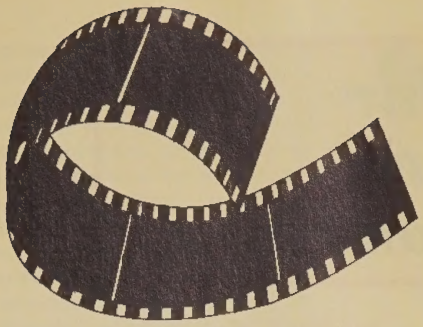
CAMsoc publishes an online newsletter via an Internet mailing list. To be added to the mailing list please send your request to hub@xc.org with the body of your message as follows:

subscribe camsoc-update <address> (your name)
end

CAMsoc is in the process of compiling a "Christian Telecommunications Toolkit." This toolkit should include articles explaining all aspects of electronic communications, fax machines, modems, BBSs (Bulletin Board Systems), commercial online services, and the Internet. There will also be modem software and a fax/e-mail directory. If you would like your church or other Christian organization to be listed (no charge) please send your e-mail address and fax number. Selections from the current draft edition of the *Toolkit* are available at <http://bible.acu.edu/ctt/ctt-home.htm, ftp://bible.acu.edu/Technology/ctt/>, or <gopher://bible.acu.edu/11gopher_root%3a%5bTechnology.CTT%5d> (observe capital letters).

For lists of church-related software for DOS, Macintosh, Amiga, Atari, and other computers, for an international echomail discussion called CITC_NET (Computers In The Church NETwork), for a text file listing all known Christian BBSs around the world, and for information about the Public Domain Bible Project, please contact me at [camsoc@xc.org]. The CAMsoc home page is <http://bible.acu.edu/ctt/camsoc.htm>. ❧

Greg has joined his parents in Croatia. A Baptist minister, he has long been involved in church telecommunications and served as a missionary in Eritrea to help the national church make use of computer technology.



Let's Go Out to the Movies!

Check out this guide to what's good at the theater and video store.

VISUAL PARABLES: A Christian Film & Video Guide, a 16 page, digest-sized monthly that reviews films from a theological perspective is newly available for the PC (HD disks). Each issue reviews films which are currently playing at theaters or released on video, including short films. The publication also includes one or more film discussion guides and a column, 'Lectionary Links,' designed to help preachers find a good scene from a film relating to scriptures from the Common Lectionary.

The editor, Dr. Edward McNulty, a pastor for 30 years, has reviewed films for Catholic and Protestant journals for 20 years, led seminars for churches and groups such as Columbia and UTS seminaries, Ghost Ranch, and Chautauqua, and authored six books on the media. His most recent book, *More Than Entertainment: Six Films for the Church*, offers a theology of film and ways of using film and the theater in the church's ministry.

The disk version does not include photos, but it often includes additional notes which the editor was forced to cut from the print copy for lack of space. The January 1996 issue, which we examined, contained discussions of 'Mr. Holland's Opus,' 'The American President,' 'Toy Story,' 'Casino,' 'Home for the Holidays,' 'White Man's Burden,' an article about December 28, 1895 as the beginning of commercial film, reviews of 'My Family' and 'Basketball Diaries' on video, and an extended discussion guide for 'To Kill a Mockingbird.' The films are rated from 1-10 for violence, language, sex/nudity, and the standard PG, PG-13, R. The January 'Lectionary Links' offered leads to 'Jesus of Nazareth,' 'King of Kings,' 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' 'La Strada' by Fellini, 'Chariots of Fire,' 'Logan's World,' and 'Broadway Danny Rose.'

Don't be mistaken. *VISUAL PARABLES* does not restrict itself just to PG films, but tackles quality movies with R ratings too. For example, for 'Casino' McNulty writes, in part:

> Beneath the surface of many of his films dealing with human corruption can be found Mr. Scorcese's religious concern, shaped by his Catholic heritage. We know this is true again when, at the beginning of the film, we hear the magnificent strains of Bach's 'St. Matthew's Passion.' The haunting, tragic mood of the music goes well with the scene in which a car is being blown up in an attempted assassination.
>
> Secularized faith is a 'religion' without grace, fueled by human corruption and dependent upon always watching your back and trusting no one. Well, almost no one, for 'Ace' acknowledges his need to trust, and love, at least one other person.
>
> This film, revealing the depravity flourishing in the wake of casino gambling, should be must viewing for any politician deluded into thinking that casinos are a clean, easy answer to government fiscal needs. (V-8, L-9, S/N-6, Rated R)

VISUAL PARABLES, an impressive publication for all those in ministry, also offers much for every home to use in sorting out movies for your own use and your children's use. We appreciated McNulty's personal responses to the film, as well as his obvious professional judgments and information. This family has subscribed! We would encourage pastors and youth leaders to consider the disk version so that you can easily insert a film review into every issue of your church newsletter or youth notes.

For a sample disk send $3 (applicable towards a subscription) or for a free sample of the print copy send a self-addressed stamped envelope to *VISUAL PARABLES*, PO Box 26, Bovina Center, NY 13740-0026. That's the address of the Bovina Presbyterian Church (607-832-4278). The subscription to the PC version is $40 and $19.95 for the print copy, or $50 combined. All subscribers have a one-time right to reproduce anything in *VISUAL PARABLES* for their own use, to include reviews in their own publications or reprint a discussion guide for use.

TRY CHRISTIAN SHAREWARE

If you are new to church computing you may have heard the term, 'shareware,' but didn't know exactly what it was. Software . . . shareware, so probably some kind of software to share. Exactly, shareware is software that you can share freely with friends and colleagues.

First, we asked David Burzynski of Shareware Aware! what advantage he saw to using shareware. "Shareware," he responds, "are programs written by professionals, novices, hackers, etc., that are made available to the public for a distribution fee. That is what I am, a distributor. The computer user installs the program, tries it for a trial period, usually thirty days, and then needs to register it with the author for continued use, for registration fees ranging from $3 to hundreds of dollars. These are not inferior programs; in some cases, I think, the shareware versions are better than commercial programs. The biggest advantage is that we can try out a program in our own homes and see if it meets all our needs."

What does 'registration' for shareware mean? Sometimes registration brings a more up-to-date version of the program, sometimes an expanded version, and sometimes a printed manual. At the very least it means you can seek support from the shareware developer if you should run into problems of any kind. Most importantly, you are recognizing the programmer's work and expertise and you are encouraging the development of more shareware programs.

Where do you find shareware? On many network services, like CompuServe or America Online, and on BBSs (local bulletin board services), too many to list here. If you know how to download files, or learn to do so, you have many resources available. In fact, shareware is increasingly available only by modem and telephone.

For those who would rather not turn to BBSs and the downloading of files, we found several distributors who still make shareware programs for DOS and Windows available on diskettes, and one on CD-ROM. For Christian software for the Macintosh we could only find downloadable programs from the Christian Macintosh Users Group.

What kind of shareware can you expect to find on the market? Just about everything! We'll mention just a few DOS and Windows programs here from David's Shareware Aware!, a personal service. He offers a number of Christian software programs in his collection of over 60 programs. Among these are some of the Philip Kapusta Bible games which Marydel Frohne, a Christian educator, recommended in her article in the February issue of ***CHURCH BYTES***.

In addition, David can provide such shareware as *God's Word for Windows* with "excellent" searching and printing capabilities (six 3.5" diskettes, KJV Bible, $9 plus $3.50 S&H) or *Memory Verse* to help you to memorize over 300 Scripture passages. You can add your own favorites to the database of verses (DOS, one 3.5" diskette, mouse and printer optional, $1.50 plus $1.50 S&H). In addition, in his list of shareware available you will find other Bible-related study aids and games.

Another category of shareware which David handles covers church finances and administration. For example, *Flexible Church System* (DOS, one 3.5" diskette, $1.50 plus $1.50 S&H) tracks membership, prospects, former members, contributions, jobs and tasks, pledges, and attendance.

Two more program descriptions caught our attention. *Acts of the Apostles* (DOS, one 3.5" diskette, $1.50 plus $1.50 S&H), an interactive Bible atlas and quiz based on the N.T. book of Acts, visually enables you to follow the journeys of the apostles as you read each chapter on the screen. Another program, *Israel: The Land of Promise*, provides a graphic tour through the Old Testament using maps, graphics, and text (DOS, one 3.5" diskette, $1.50 plus $1.50 S&H).

As you can see from the minimal costs for these diskettes, Shareware Aware! provides a service to the community of faith as David's personal ministry. He covers distribution costs only. If you would like a printed list of his collection of shareware, just send him a stamped and self-addressed envelope.

When we asked David how he came to offer shareware programs, he replied: "The programs that I have collected come from about ten different sources, some obscure, and from over seven years of research. Helping other people is a blessing to me. I know about Christian shareware and feel I can help other people by saving them time and money. Shareware Aware!, for me, is ministry within the body of Christ."

For the Macintosh user, we suggest you visit the Christian Macintosh Users Group web site at <http://www.c-mug.org/> for access to alarge number of downloadable files, as well as information about CMUG and its newsletter, *His Servant*. Douglas Wade, President and Editor, tells us that CMUG also maintains links to other Christian web sites.

So use the contacts given here for diskette-based shareware or learn to use a modem to download files. There's a rich world of DOS, Windows, and Macintosh shareware programs out there just waiting for you. ❧

SHAREWARE CONTACTS

Shareware Aware!, PO Box 273, Oak Creek, WI 53154-0273. Send a self-addressed and stamped envelope for a complete listing of DOS and Windows shareware, probably the most extensive Christian shareware available on diskette.

Shareware Express, 1908 Ashland Street Suite D, Ashland, OR 97520, 800-346-2842, 541-482-4230 fax, offers an extensive collection (only a few are specifically Bible or church related) of shareware for DOS and Windows, on 5.25 or 3.5" diskettes (no CD-ROMs), as well as online memberships for downloading files.

Christian Macintosh Users Group, downloadable files from the web site at <http://www.c-mug.org/> and information about the group and its newsletter, *His Sevant*.

Shareware Heaven CD-ROMs, hundreds of shareware programs, for DOS (5.0 or later, VGA) and Windows, in many categories including religion, from Significant Bits, Inc., 37207 Colorado Ave., Avon, OH 44011, 800-755-4619, 216-934-1386 fax, [order@msbcd.com]. We've found the 1995 and 1996 CD-ROM discs easy to explore and the programs easy to locate and load to a hard disk drive; everything is menu driven and automatic.

Religious Networking News

– or – What's New On *"The Net"*

NOTE: Unlike Internet adresses, Web site addresses are case sensitive. To reach Web sites, be sure to observe the capital letters. Web addresses are enclosed in < > marks; e-mail addresses are enclosed in [ ] marks.

Selected Sites of Interest:

All in All BBS, run by Rick and Karen Brooks, Crossroads Alabama Ecclesia, announced that the BBS is now hooked up to the Internet with a 24 hours a day connection [mudbug @datasync.com].
<http://www.datasync.com/allinall/>

Center for Computer Analysis of Texts (CCAT) at the University of Pennsylvania. For Hebrew and Greek texts, morphologically analyzed texts and the parallel aligned Hebrew and Greek Old Testament, as well as other documents related to biblical studies; also Islamic, Mormon, classical, and medieval texts.
<gopher://ccat.sas.upenn.edu:70/11/Archive/>

Charlton Heston's Voyage Through The Bible, Mac/Win CD-ROMs, from Bible.net.
<http://www.biblenet.com/>

Christ in the Desert, Benedictine monastery outside Abiquiu, New Mexico. Design hand lettered and illuminated home pages.
<http://www.technet.nm.org/pax.html>

Christian Classics Ethereal Library, a Wheaton College project, growing library of texts in ASCII and Adobe's *Acrobat* formats.
<http://ccel.wheaton.edu/>

Christian education and computers. Send an e-mail message to join an online discussion among church educators who are using computers in their Sunday school. Led by Neil MacQueen, Presbyterian minister and educator.
[sundaysoft@aol.com]

Free Christian Software Directory, a guide to freeware and demo versions on the Internet.
<http://www.viper.net/clients/serious/freeware.htm>

God on the Internet by Mark Kellner.
<http://www.reston.com/kellner/kellner.html>

Gospel Communication Network, sponsored by Gospel Films, a not-for-profit media ministry based in Muskegon, Michigan, with over 20 other ministries cooperating, such as InterVarsity, Youth for Christ, the Association of Christian Schools International, and The Navigators.
<http://www.gospelcom.net>

Lest We Forget - A History of the Holocaust. CD-ROM preview from Logos Research Systems.
<http://www.logos.com/holocaust/MAIN.HTML>

Macintosh Clip Art: CMUG, Christian Macintosh Users Group.
<http://www.industrial-artworks.com/cmug/MBSV.html>

Online Bible, Larry Pierce, for DOS and Windows products, many versions, many reference works.
<http://www.omroep.nl/eo/bible/>

Search for Your Israeli Cousin: Windows CD-ROM from DAVKA Corporation.
<http://www.davka.com/>

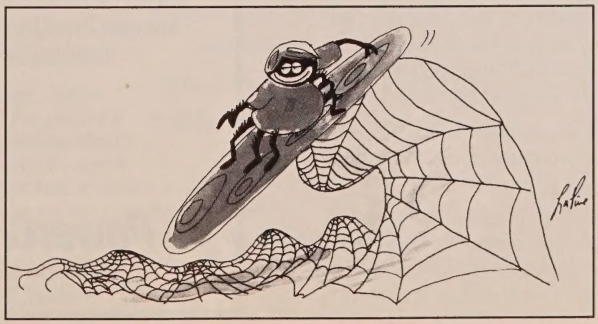
Smith Chapel Bible College offers on-line bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs world wide via its Computer Interactive Multimedia Study Modules. Each student's local church serves as both an extension campus and a Resident-in-Ministry Internship.
<http://www.specdata.com/cgbbs/>

Softword Technology Bible learning games has new home page. See Marydel Frohne's review article in the February issue.
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/softword/homepage.htm>

TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism, electronic journal, editor James R. Adair.
<http://scholar.cc.emory.edu/scripts/TC/TC.html>

Works of Josephus (English translations) available. Non-Canonical Documents: Documents to Aid Scholars in Biblical Interpretation, by J.L. Williams.
<http://wesley.nnc.edu/noncanon.htm>

We would like to publish Web sites which you've found interesting and helpful to church computing, your church or denomination's home page, and significant Internet addresses. Please send along a brief description with the address.



Going Online Strengthens Parish Pastor

The Rev. Hal Nilsson, Pastor of St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was interviewed by the Ecunet Staff. His responses demonstrate a variety of benefits from online communication.

Staff: As a local church pastor, how has Ecunet enriched your ministry?

Hal: I benefit by the quick interchange on topics in which I am interested, by having up-to-date news not available elsewhere, and by the ability to stay in touch with friends and colleagues across the country. Often I am able to share information with people in my parish much more quickly than I would if I had to rely on other sources.

Staff: You were a delegate to the national ELCA churchwide assembly. Among the major decisions made there was the election of a new Bishop of the church. How did the Ecunet conversations around this issue help you make an informed decision?

Hal: Yes, I was a 'voting member' as our documents call it at the churchwide assembly in Minneapolis last year. I lurked in the meeting, "Election of the Next ELCA Bishop," for months. It was there I first learned of H. George Anderson's availability and about other candidates with whom I was not acquainted. That meeting also helped me to think about the qualities I look for, the expectations I have for the churchwide bishop.

Staff: Are many people in your congregation using electronic communication?

Hal: St. Luke has many members of both genders in the science and engineering fields. Many, including several retired engineers, are online daily. I never have trouble rounding up some folks when we want to consider how to better use technology in the life and ministry of the congregation.

Staff: A number of ELCA churches in the Rocky Mountain Synod are connected through Ecunet. How has that helped synodical communication?

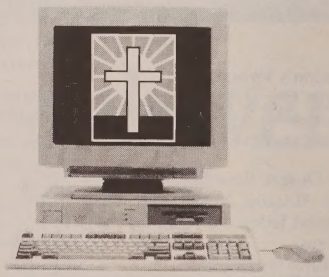
Hal: The "Rocky Mountain Synod" meeting is growing in membership. There is news from the synod office almost daily. In addition, the meeting is a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among clergy and parishes. The bottom line: I feel more closely tied to the synod than ever.

Staff: What are three favorite meetings for you?

Hal: The meetings on which I have relied most are "Sermonshop," "Gospel Notes for Next Sunday," and "Rocky Mountain Synod." I peruse 15-20 other meetings and occasionally join one outside my usual realms of interest just to see what's happening around the Christian world. As with many folks online the time involvement can get away from me if I'm not careful! ❧

Reprinted with permission from *ECUNEToff-line*, Wallace Ford, Editor. Call 800-733-2863, 404-682-8888 for information about Ecunet services and costs. Ecunet is an ecumenical online service serving many churches in the USA and Canada, with Internet access.

Church Management Made Easy.



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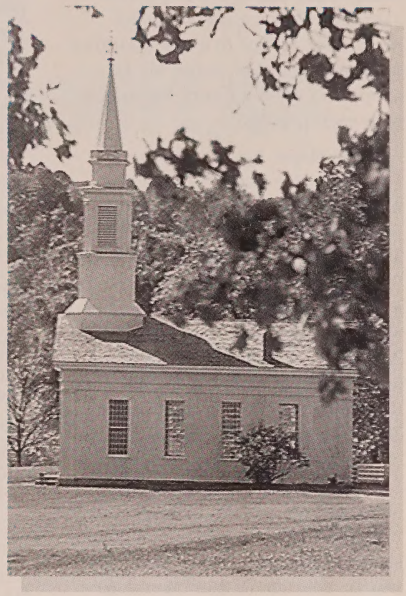
Significant Tool for Worship

by Bill O'Connor

Everyone knows that the computer is a useful tool for the local church; it can produce more attractive letters and newsletters, manage attendance and giving statistics, chart church progress, and help pastors keep track of members, prospects, and programs. The most significant use I've found for the computer, however, is as a tool for planning and implementing worship. Though a computer might seem intrusive when mentioned in connection with worship, as a tool for planning and implementing worship it is indispensable.

Consider the computer as a worship planning tool. . .



To use the computer as a worship planning tool, you will need two indispensable pieces of software—a good word processor and a computer Bible. What can you do with a computer, a word processor, and a study Bible? Almost anything. This combination of tools makes the life of busy worship planners much easier. It can save hours each week, a total of two or three weeks each year.

What can you do with a computer, a word processor, and a study Bible? Almost anything!

The obvious place to begin is with the worship bulletin. Verses for inclusion in the bulletin can be pulled from the computer Bible directly into the bulletin format without re-keying. All it takes is a few key strokes. For DOS a simple macro will bring text saved in the electronic Bible directly into the current document of your word processor. Or use the Windows clipboard. This saves the time required to retype the verses and eliminates the errors sometimes made in the process. It assures an accurate handling of the Word of God.

The word processor, of course, allows the worship planning team to use italics, bold facing, underlining, and a variety of type styles and formatting to shape the worship bulletin into a useful worship tool. Even the appearance of the bulletin can have a significant influence on the service of worship if it conveys the message that worship is im-

portant, meriting careful attention, and deserving of our best.

The same ease in transferring scripture into a document also applies, of course, to the creation of sermons. Nothing has saved so much time for me over the past five years as the ability to use all the scripture I wish without having to type each passage.

The above uses are obvious. Let's talk now about some of the more creative aspects of what we might call "worship computing." The computer Bible and word processor can be used in concert to create any number of worship aids and resources. If several passages are to be read in a service, they can be selected and printed out in large type, then given to your chosen readers. This eliminates any confusion in communicating the text reference from one person to the next. It assures that the chosen passage will indeed be read, rather than a passage from the wrong book or a nearby chapter. Larger type sizes and paragraphing are also helpful in improving the quality of reading itself, since many people struggle with the fine type and parallel columns in many Bibles.

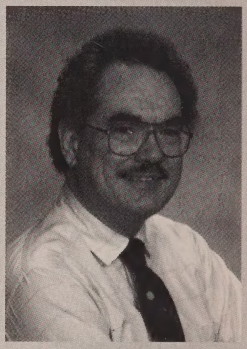
The next step is the creation of specific worship resources designed to further the theme and purpose of a specific service. Sometimes you just can't find an appropriate extended passage or a responsive reading that fits what you have in mind. Rather than eliminating a scripture reading, create one that fits your needs. Using the computer Bible's concordance, look up every passage that uses the words you wish to emphasize. Or, using electronic topical Bible features look up various themes related to your worship plan. From these verses, choose the passages that fit your theme and blend them into a reading for the day.

Responsive readings can be flowed into the word processor, formatted appropriately, and produced as a bulletin insert. You can also shape readings—whether of extended passages or of selected verses—into choral readings with men and women reading antiphonally, the pastor, choir and congregation reading alternating verses; or several persons reading a dramatic passage in the form of a script with narrator and Bible characters acted out. Be creative. The scriptures themselves will tell you how they ought to be read. They may be presented by one person, two persons in duet or responsively, three or more persons reading dramatically, a variety of congregational groupings, or by on-platform and off-platform voices.

For creating litanies, congregational responses, etc., this combination of tools is unbeatable. Verses can be pulled from the computer Bible and them combined with other thoughts to create some powerful prayer tools. The use of the computer Bible makes the search for appropriate verses faster and easier. An electronic search of the entire Bible for any word, or combination of words, takes less than thirty seconds. Try paging your way through a print concordance and pulling out two or three dozen appropriate scriptures in less than an hour!

The bottom line is that anything you wish to do in terms of selecting and arranging scriptures, combining them with other sources, and turning the combination into a useful worship tool, can be done with your word processor and computer Bible. In the process you can save hours, enhance worship, add variety and beauty to your services, and immerse your congregation more deeply and effectively in the Word of God. Isn't that what worship planning is all about? ❧

About the author. . .



Bill O'Connor is an Ordained Elder and Registered Evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene and Executive Director of the La Grande, Oregon, Chamber of Commerce. He writes from the perspective of thirty years of ministry experience and from his current activities providing resource materials for pastors and teaching congregational seminars.

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Church Software & Hardware

Questions & Answers

Q: Where can I find the classic documents of Reformed theology, The Westminster Confession of Faith *and the* Larger and Shorter Catechisms, *for computer use?*

A: Logos Research Systems offers them for Windows for $19.95. Call 800-87-LOGOS in Oak Harbor, Washington.

Q: I see references to ASCII text files which I could use in my word processor. What does this mean?

A: These text files use only 128 characters which most computers can handle. Each letter, numeral, and punctuation mark is represented by a number from 0 to 127 in an agreed upon standard. This means that any ASCII text file can be loaded into most word processors for use. Then you can add all the special characters and symbols unique to your word processor and printer for bold, centering, etc. ASCII data files use the same characters too for a generic format which most database programs can read and load.

Q: What does 'STEP' compatible mean? Is this important for computer study software?

A: STEP refers to a standardized file format for books, reference works, commentaries, etc., which has been developed by several publishers, such as Parsons Technology, White Harvest, NavPress, Woodlawn Publishing, and others. This means that if you purchase a STEP compatible library reader and computer Bibles from any one of the vendors, that reader will also be compatible with STEP compatible books from any publisher, thus expanding your selection of add-on reference works. The reader provides all the tools for searching, copying, printing, etc.

Q: Is STEP the only standardized format for computer study software?

A: No, Logos Research Systems has released a Windows-based library system which is available to any publisher. Baker Books, for example, publishes current reference works which operate either as stand alone programs (using the Logos library system which is included) or as part of an integrated library with Logos Bibles and compatible reference works from any other publisher.

Q: I see references to DDE in descriptions of computer Bibles and other programs. What does that mean?

A: DDE enables two Windows applications to transfer data between them. For example, this might mean that while you are working in your Windows word processor you can enter a so-called hot key combination (like Shift-Ctrl-R) to open your computer Bible. Right in the middle of your document a dialog box opens to let you choose which Bible version you want to copy, which verses, etc. When you click okay, those verses automatically enter right into your word processing document. There's no need to open the computer Bible, display the Bible verses, copy them into the Clipboard, return to your word processor, and copy them into your document. DDE does that quite simply, as well as many other tasks in Windows of which we're not even aware.

Q: Where can I find information on the Internet about the growing diversity of world religions here in the USA?

A: The newly published book, *God on the Internet*, by Mark Kellner, tells you how and where to access world religions information on the Internet. It's available in bookstores or you can contact Mark directly via his home page: <http://www.reston.com/kellner/kellner.html> or [markkel@aol.com].

Send your questions to:

Neil Houk, Editor-in-chief

Via e-mail:
Ecunet: NEIL HOUK
Internet:
neil_houk.parti@ecunet.org

Via phone:
Editorial Office voice/fax:
919-490-8927

Via US Mail:
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4800 University Drive Apt 15C
Durham NC 27707-3473

LOGOS CUSTOMER SUPPORT FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED

Logos Research Systems, Inc. recently installed a TDD (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) phone line for orders and general information. The new line enables an individual to interact with a customer service representative by typing questions and receiving answers through a TDD device. The new TDD order number is 800-570-5400 and a technical support TDD is also available.

Logos Research Systems, Inc. develops electronic books for the *Logos Library System*. Recently the company received four Readers Choice Awards from *Christian Computing Magazine* at the Regional Christian Computing Expo held in Phoenix, Arizona last January. The *Logos Bible Software 2.0* not only reads, searches, and studies many languages and versions of the Bible, but also a growing number of electronic books, now totaling over 100. Contact Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2117 200th Avenue W, Oak Harbor, WA 98277, 360-679-6575, 800-87-LOGOS (orders).

SCRIPTURE, ANIMATION, & FUN

Malicious Max, the villain of a new CD-ROM for Mac or PC, *The Rescue*, isn't a typical kidnapper. He's a computer virus with Froggo in his clutches. The Adventure Team, with the help of the player, must go through Bible pictures, stories, verses, video clips, games, mazes, and articles to get Froggo back. With high quality animation and sound, portions of the NIV Bible, and clips from classic Twentieth Century Fox Bible films the disc tries to entertain and also give children ages 8-12 a clearer picture of Bible times and places. *The Adventure Bible Handbook: The Rescue* costs $39.95, from Zondervan New Media, 5300 Patterson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49530, 800-727-3480, 616-698-6900, 616-698-3223 fax, [zondervan@aol.com] e-mail, or <http://www.zondervan.com>.

FUN WITH NOAH

Super 3D Noah's Ark for the PC (DOS, 640K RAM, VGA, Soundblaster compatible sound card, mouse and joystick compatible) challenges the user as Noah to get all the animals inside the Ark back into their cages, using the food brought aboard. $39.95 from Wisdom Tree Inc., 2700 E. Imperial Hwy. Bldg. A, Brea, CA 92621, 800-772-4253, 714-528-3456.

FREE CHRISTIAN SOFTWARE

Check out the "Free Christian Software Directory" on the Internet. The Web site provides links to the Christian and church related software products available without cost. In addition, links are provided to shareware sites that may contain additional free software. If the software that you are trying to locate is not found at this site, a form is provided which utilizes the search engine of *Shareware.Com* to search hundreds of thousands of additional freeware and shareware files located throughout various software archives on the Internet.

Some of the links currently available from the Free Christian Software Directory include *Proverb-A-Day* for Windows or DOS, Bridgestone's *Captain Bible* (freeware version), The Christian Clipart Site, Christian Freeware Developed By Dan Sharpe, The "Executable Outlines" Series, Parsons Technology demos for *Membership Plus 2.0* and *QuickVerse for Windows*, and the *Shareware.com* search engine itself.

The Web site is <http://www.viper.net/clients/serious/freeware.htm>, according to *The Computer Software News*, an on-line Christian software service, 800-338-3229, [serious@mindspring.com].

HOLOCAUST HISTORY

Lest We Forget - A History of the Holocaust CD-ROM (dual Windows/Mac) by Endless Interactive in Belgium was released by Logos Research Systems on Holocaust Remembrance Day, April 15. The disc contains 250 pages of original text written specifically for the work, historical interactive maps, charts and timeline, glossary and hypertext links, 65 detailed biographies, overall design and graphics which provide an appropriate environment for the subject, subtitled German audio documents and rare film footage, original soundtrack, narrated video-montages as summaries of the main topics, and a gallery of 500 photographs with accompanying captions, many of which come from the Yad Vashem Memorial Archives in Jerusalem. Contact Logos Research Systems, 2117 200th Avenue W, Oak Harbor, WA 98277, 360-679-6575, 800-87-LOGOS (orders), 360-675-8169 fax, or <http://www.logos.com/holocaust/MAIN.HTML> for a preview.

FUN IN THE HOLY LAND

Search for Your Israeli Cousin (CD-ROM for Windows) teaches about Israel's geography, history, and famous personalities, with over 200

challenging clues, a map of Israel, and fully narrated descriptions of locations, full color photographs, and music, ages 10 and up. Minimum requirements are Windows 3.1, VGA monitor, and sound card with speakers. Contact DAVKA Corporation, 7074 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60645, 800-621-8227, 312-465-4070, 312-262-9298 fax, <http://www.davka.com>.

VISITATION & EVANGELISM

DOVES Follow-up Plus 2.0 visitation and follow-up software for Windows includes mail-merge, document manager, and visitor tracking, and handles demographic information, spiritual gifts, skills, and more, and cross referencing of information, $249, from DOVES Software, 13613 N. Cave Creek Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85022, 602-404-7422. Shelby Systems will also market the product.

BIBLE GAME

Bible CryptoVerse for Windows converts Bible verses into cryptograms to solve. All the letters in a verse are replaced by other letters. The game, which includes two files of verses from the KJV and one from the NIV Bible, costs $19.95, from Two Cats Publishing, PO Box 38, Fairview, MI 48621-0038, 517-826-6816.

NOAH CD-ROM

Noah and the Ark, a multimedia storybook CD-ROM for Mac or Windows, features the narrated story with lots of animation, sounds, and music to click on, for ages 3-9. If you highlight a sentence the computer reads it aloud. The disc, designed by ETICA Entertainment, is published by Logos Research Systems. *Noah* requires a 256 color display, 2X CD-ROM drive, either Windows 3.1/95 on a 486/33 or System 7.0 on a Mac. The list price is $29.95, $25 from Serious Developments, 216 Dogwood Drive, Auburn, AL 36830, 334-826-0231 voice/fax, 800-338-3229 (USA only), <serious @mindspring.com, http://www. viper.net/clients/serious/csn.htm>.

CATHOLIC CATECHISM TESTS

Know Your Catechism for Mac, DOS, and Apple IIe ($19.95) is taken from *The Catechism Handbook* by Fr. Oscar Lukefahr. A different set of questions about the *Catechism* are generated randomly for each session, which can be printed for use or taken directly on the computer. Users can choose any combination of true/false, multiple choice, and matching questions. The program also enables teachers to enter their own information and generate tests from that material. A Windows version is coming. Contact Liguori Publications, One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057, 314-464-2500, 314-464-8449 fax, 800-325-9521, 800-325-9526 fax.

TRAVEL TO ROME

Jasmine Multimedia presents *Inside the Vatican*, a two disc CD-ROM set for Windows. The program, hosted by Sir Peter Ustinov, presents priceless Vatican treasures, 100 masterpieces of art, 30 musical pieces, hours of video, and hypertext featuring *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Filmed on location across Europe and from inside the Vatican walls the CDs highlights the cardinals and kings, martyrs and miracles, of the Catholic church. List price is $79.95, but only $49.95 from Liguori Publications, One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057, 314-464-2500, 314-464-8449 fax, 800-325-9521, 800-325-9526 fax.

OLD TESTAMENT INDEX

Old Testament Abstracts on CD-ROM (DOS) contains 8,000 records covering the period February 1992 to June 1995, for articles, books, multi-author works and collected essays, from hundreds of journals in many languages, published by the Catholic Biblical Association of America. Issues of *OTA* dating back to its beginnings in 1978 will be added to the CD-ROM in subsequent versions. The cost is $140 for individuals, from the American Theological Library Association, 820 Church Street #300, Evanston, IL 60201, 708-869-7788, 708-869-8513, [atla@atla.com].

LUTHER SCREEN SAVER FOR WINDOWS

The *People Savers* collection of ten screen savers for Windows now includes one designed in honor of the Reformation, a Luther seal with various Bible passages, designed by Robert S. Smith, Sola Fide Software. *People Savers* is $15 from Online Bible USA, Online Bible USA, PO Box 21, Bronson, MI 49028-0021, 800-243-7124, 517-369-6035, 517-369-2518 fax or Serious Developments, 216 Dogwood Drive, Auburn, AL 36830, 800-338-3229, 334-826-0231 voice/fax.

MONKS ON THE INTERNET

At Christ in the Desert, a Benedictine monastery outside Abiquiu, New Mexico, the monks

follow the life of prayer and labor. Now in addition to weaving and the carving of icons the monks have turned to the design of World Wide Web home pages. For this they added additional solar panels to generate power for computers, bought a telephone, and connected to the Internet. Their home page is <http://www.technet.nm.org/pax.html>.

The requests for hand lettered and illuminated home pages have wonderfully boosted the monastery's income to support the 24 monks. The hand lettering on canvas is scanned into digital files for use in a home page. The charge is $65 an hour for programming and $110 for art work.

The monastery's Web site links to a virtual monk, Brother URL (for Universal Resource Locator in Internet jargon), who gives directions to general information about the monastery, the gift shop, reservations for the guest house, information for those interested in joining the monks, and the home page art work.

Said one monk: "The ancient scribes proved the power of illumination on parchment. As modern scribes we are simply trying to restore that art of illumination by using clean interface design and the multimedia tools of the Web."

LIFE & TIMES OF JESUS

Thomas Nelson Royal Media presents an interactive adventure on the life of Jesus on a CD-ROM for Mac or Windows. The disc includes over 100 related articles and the full text of the RSV Bible, animated satellite photography, artwork, almost 60 videos, simulated 3-D tour of typical homes during Jesus' day. Noted by *PC Magazine* as a "Top 200" title. Requires 4Mb RAM minimum, SVGA 256 colors, Soundblaster compatible audio, or System 7.1 for the Mac. Liguori Publications, One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057, 314-464-2500, 314-464-8449 fax, 800-325-9521, 800-325-9526 fax.

COUNSELING RESOURCES

Douglas Flather joined the staff of the American Association of Christian Counselors as Director of Software Resources to oversee the development, production, distribution, and continued updating of the publications he began, now titled *The American Association of Christian Counselors Resource Guide* and *The Christian Counselor's Legal Protection Kit*, software for Windows ($59.95 ea.).

The *Guide* contains various databases to meet informational needs such as reference works, over 120 critical topics and issues, journals, techniques, organizations, hotlines, and Bible studies. Resources for both counselor and counselee are included. Entries can be printed.

The hypertext *Kit*, which enables you to jump from one item to another directly in addition to the menu system, presents issues of ethics, high risk practices, insurance for Christian counselors, seven forms to protect the counselor, referrals, counselor self care, legal services directory, annotated bibliography, and tutorial.

Contact The American Association of Christian Counselors, PO Box 739, Forest, VA 24551-0739, 800-5-COUNSEL. The 20,000 member AACC welcomes inquiries about membership.

NASB '95 CD ROM

The Lockman Foundation released the New American Standard Bible 1995 update version on a CD-ROM for Mac 7.0 and Windows (3.1, 95, NT). The disc includes the NASB, NASB update, KJV, La Biblia de las Americas (Spanish NASB, for Windows only), NASB Cross References and Translator's Notes, Topical Studies, Treasury of Scripture Knowledge cross References, and the BibleMaster computer Bible program to search, study, print, develop user personal notes and cross references, and use the Clipboard connection to word processing. The new NASB modernizes the 'thee's' and 'thou's,' for example, and retranslates verses with difficult word order or vocabulary, in a literal translation. The CD costs $49.95, from American Bible Sales, 870 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92805, 714-535-4641, 800-535-5131.

COKESBURY COMPUTER RESOURCES

Cokesbury instituted a private forum on CompuServe (additional $7.95 monthly fee) to provide information for church leaders, real time conferencing, product information, and some file downloading. Cokesbury also offers a variety of church computing products in it catalogs, such as the United Methodist's Book of Worship, Hymnal, and Book of Discipline, the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship, the Works of John Wesley; computer Bibles by Harvest, Oxford University, Biblesoft, NAV Press, and Zondervan; LectionaryWare, the Revised Common Lectionary, weddings, clip art, hymns and scriptures, preaching tools, raising funds, and Bible-based study and games, variously for DOS, Windows, Mac, and CD-ROM. The extensive listing adds to the growing visibility of church computing. Contact Cokesbury, 201 8th Ave. S., PO Box 801, Nashville, TN 37202, 800-445-8189 fax, 800-672-1789.

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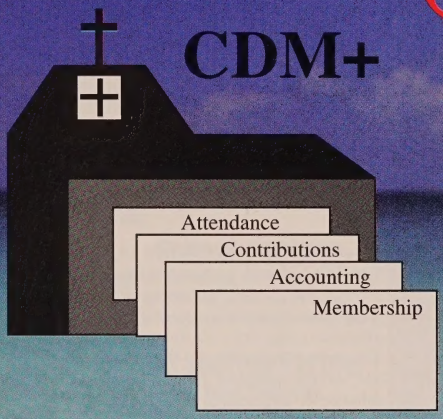

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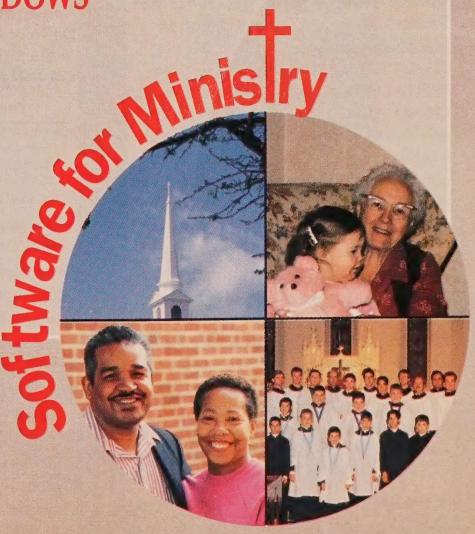

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Classifieds

Books & Publications

ADRIS Newsletter, Association for the Development of Religious Information Systems. Editor Edward W. Dodds, PO Box 210735, Nashville, TN 37221, adris@telalink.net, 615-662-5189, 615-662-5251 fax, ADRIS homepage: http://www.telalink.net/~adris. Data being compiled for inclusion in the 2nd edition of the *International Directory of Religious Information Systems.*

Better Looking Documents Using Word Processing, in a series of Professional Church Secretary Reports, $3 each, by Gayle Hilligoss, editor of *PROfile* newsletter, Success Systems, Inc., 13004 Pratt Road, Lee's Summit, MO 64086, 816-524-8161.

God on the Internet, by Mark A. Kellner, IDG Books Worldwide, 336 pp., 100 illustrations, index, soft cover, $24.99, $34.99 Canada: religious resources on the Internet and online services, contact your local bookstore.

Robert Slade's Guide to Computer Viruses, by Robert Slade. 2nd edition, published by Springer-Verlag, ISBN 0-387-94311-0, $29.95. 800-SPRINGER, 201-348-4505 fax, or local bookstores. Available USA, Canada, and Europe. Explains everything about viruses, protections from them, and solutions to virus problems; highly recommended by Rob's brother, Greg Slade, who is editor of CAMSOC-UPDATE online and a ***CHURCH BYTES*** contributor.

His Servant, monthly newsletter of the Christian Macintosh Users Group. Doug Wade, Editor, PO Box 4067, Redondo Beach, CA 90278, 310-371-7097 voice/fax, dwade@cmug-la.org. $20 membership. 16 associated chapters and organizations world wide. BBS, member discounts.

Books & Publications, cont.

MUGnews, monthly newsletter of the United Methodist Computer Users Group of the California-Pacific Annual Conference. $25 annual dues. Editor, Bill Vinson, 18170 Santa Lauretta Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, 714-968-7015.

Teaching with Computers in the Sunday School, by Neil MacQueen, Presbyterian minister and educator with many years experience, covering computer education philosophy, hardware issues for the novice, how to set up a 'Bible computer lab,' writing computer quizzes, how to enhance the educational content of Bible computer games, etc., from Sunday School Software, 247 Sharon Drive, Barrington, IL 60010, 800-678-1948, 847-382-9890, sundaysoft@aol.com.

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Bible-related games,
quizzes, quiz creator, for DOS, shareware from Softword Technology. Download from **BBS: 540-372-9680.** Recommended by Marydel Frohne in ***CHURCH BYTES***.

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Consultants

The following served as volunteer consultants for ***CHURCH BYTES*** *over the past several years and we thank them all. They do represent a valuable resource to the church computing community. Give them a call regarding a particular question. If there are consultant fees for further service, they will let you know.*

Ken Bedell, Dayton, OH 513-836-3693, professional consultant, church and Bible software, education, on-line seminary education, consultant to church groups, programmer.

J. Michael Drushal, Ashland, OH 419-289-3984, teaches computer systems at the undergraduate level as well as a "Computers in Ministry" course at seminary.

Marydel Frohne, LaPorte, IN 219-362-4018, volunteer, Christian education for C-64 and PC, Bible related computer learning tools, CE software, learning principles, CE contributing editor for ***CHURCH BYTES***.

Kay Hall, Florida 407-783-6790, Macintosh® Bible and church software, general Macintosh® questions, desktop publishing, and Christian home computing especially, author of *The Ministry Macintosh.*

Mac McKean, Alabama 205-853-4440, 205-854-5482 (home), pastor of a small church, varied experience with low cost software and WordPerfect® and QuickVerse™ Bible concordance.

Lee A. Morris, Southern N.Y. and northern N.J. 914-356-6366, consultant for churches and individuals for IBM® compatible hardware, software, CD-ROM.

Dennis D. Nicholson, Iowa 515-324-2922 (home), 515-324-1557 (office), UMC pastor and computer consultant re what churches need to know before buying, Windows® 3.1, Word™ for Windows®.

Greg Slade, moderates BAPTIST echo on FamilyNet, edits Internet newsletter on church computing and related subjects, *CAMSOC-UPDATE*, maintains lists of Christian BBSs in the USA, Canada, and worldwide; Greg Slade, #106-1675 Augusta Ave., Burnaby, BC V5A 4S8, Canada, and camsoc@xc.org or eccles@vcn.bc.ca.

Walt Stone, Cary, NC, 919-851-5215, volunteer for ***CHURCH BYTES*** (see his article in the January issue), PC graphics and desktop publishing enthusiast, with experience with church bulletins, newsletters, and pamphlets, a Canon® color inkjet, and a GEOS expert (low cost solutions for churches not using Windows or Mac desktop publishing), stony1@nando.net. Walt is retired on disability and is happy to take calls and give help from his home.

Doug Wade, 310-371-7087 voice/fax, Editor, Christian Macintosh® Users Group, PO Box 4067, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. All things Mac®, both great and small.

Bill Torbert, Virginia 804-488-5506, church management software, day care billing, accounting expertise, programmer, developer of *CMTS* church management software.

Ray Waldo, Louisiana 504-878-2956 (6-9 PM), President, Christian Distribution Network, Inc., communications, BBS networks, shareware; Internet: ray.waldo@f1.n394.z1.fidonet.org.

David Warren, Cleveland area 216-933-2189, consultant for individuals, churches, all kinds of MS-DOS® compatible equipment, printers, and a wide variety of software.

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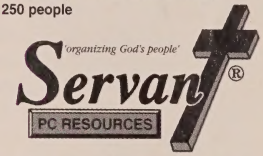

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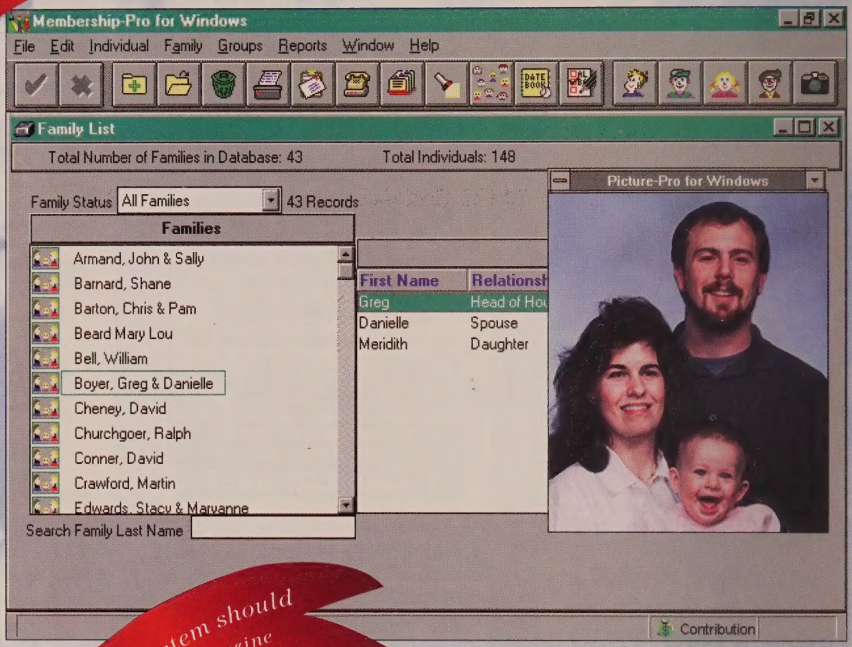

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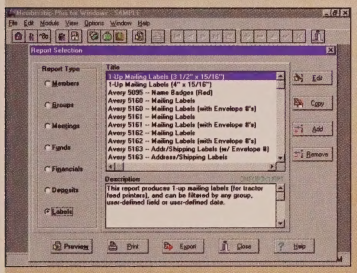

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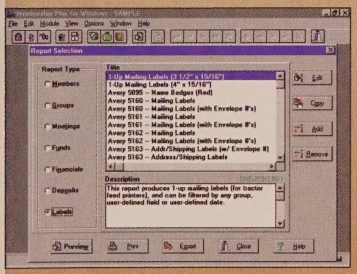

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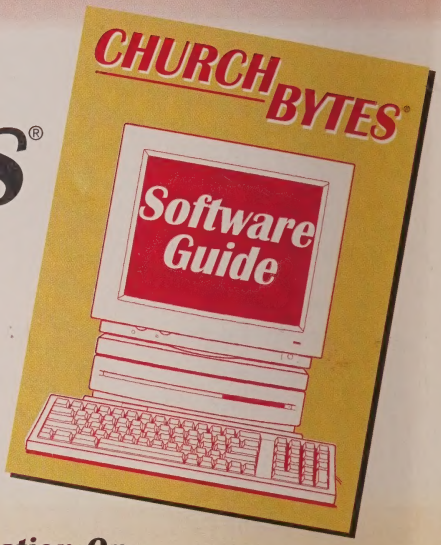

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12.2

Gateway Films
VISION VIDEO

25TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO CATALOG

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVING, EDUCATING, AND SHOWING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH CHRISTIAN FILM AND VIDEO.

FROM OUR FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

Gateway Films
VISION VIDEO
2030 Wentz Church Road, P. O. Box 540
Worcester, PA 19490

Dear Friend:

Welcome to our 25th Anniversary catalog. A quarter century ago our company began with one film, *The Cross and the Switchblade*. Today we offer over 500 different edifying programs on video; the most significant of these are included in this catalog. Gateway Films is our production side, Vision Video our distribution arm. Thus, the two names. For this anniversary, we are enthused to offer several significant new releases:

(1) *Peter and Paul*, p. 3: This MCA Television mini-series starring Anthony Hopkins has never been available on video before, and we are pleased to announce its release here.
(2) *Hanged on a Twisted Tree: The Life, Convictions, and Martyrdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, p. 4: This two-hour documentary provides penetrating background and insight into the life and mind of the great 20th century Biblical theologian and martyr.
(3) *Red Boots for Christmas*, p. 27, is a 30-minute fully animated children's Christmas television special.
(4) *The Law of Love*, p. 4, is a powerful documentary on the life and ministry of Jackie Pullinger.
(5) *Michael the Visitor*, p. 28: This latest claymation production from Billy Budd Films is an adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's tale, "Truths We Live By."

To celebrate our 25th anniversary, we have produced a program entitled *Memorable Moments*. This program features key scenes from our most powerful films. See the back cover for more details and a special offer.

A Company With a Calling

From the beginning our purpose has been to present material for the screen that proclaims the message of Jesus Christ and how His Gospel addresses our lives and the world today. Early on we concentrated our efforts primarily, although not exclusively, in the field of Christian history. This is our passion, and to speak frankly, we consider it our special calling.

From a business point of view, we were advised repeatedly that this concentration was foolish, that we would never survive, because people today are not interested in history. Well, isn't that just the point? It is our conviction that the lack of awareness of our Christian heritage has tragically handicapped us in dealing with the urgent issues facing our society, our churches and our individual lives.

We are thankful to say that every year more and more of you are discovering the importance and practical value of our historical films. They get people to think, to look at life in a new way, to understand the church and Gospel in a fuller context, and to see a little deeper into how God so patiently deals with his struggling people.

Our Customer Policy

It is our goal to make available to you the finest programming that is consistent with our mission at the lowest possible prices. We are further committed to your total satisfaction with any program you receive from us. You can count on our guarantee that is spelled out on **the order form**. You never need to worry about any program you order from us. If it doesn't meet your expectations, you may return it for a full credit or a cash refund.

We Are Here For You!

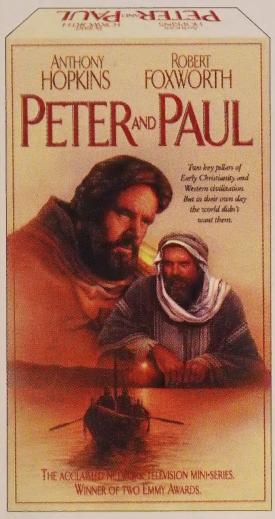
We live in a video age. Our young people are saturated with video images and programming. What we do is a small drop in the bucket. But we are constantly thrilled to hear of how our programs are making a difference in the lives of people in homes, classrooms, churches, prisons, small groups, and community programs. We count it a privilege to offer what so many of you have told us is the finest collection of Christian-oriented material you have found anywhere. We are here for you. We welcome your suggestions for specific programs or the kind of programs you want. We send forth our materials with the prayer that they will minister in the myriad places they enter. We sincerely thank you for your support and would appreciate your prayers.

Ken Curtis, Ph.D
President

PETER AND PAUL

The acclaimed network television mini-series and winner of two Emmy Awards!

NOW AVAILABLE ON VIDEO!

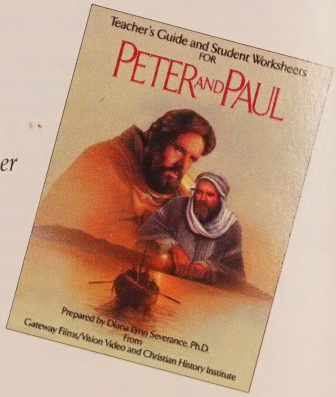


Now for the first time on home video the long awaited epic series that brings the New Testament church alive. This distinguished production, starring Anthony Hopkins and Robert Foxworth, captures the vitality, intensity, and humanity of two who were entrusted by Christ with history's greatest stewardship — the carrying of the Gospel to all the world.

They faced violent opposition from without and constant turmoil from within. Based on the Scriptures by and about Peter and Paul, we see how they were driven by a heavenly vision for a different kind of world. They paid a horrendous price for their devotion—Peter crucified and Paul beheaded—but their ministries transcended the cruelty of their enemies to become important pillars of both the Christian Church and Western civilization.

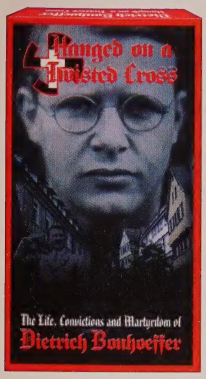
194 minutes on two tapes, #4184
$49.95

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
112-page Teacher's Guide with Student Worksheets



Includes complete background and preparation material for leaders to conduct 13 sessions on *Peter and Paul* based on the Biblical sources. Excellent resource for Sunday Schools, small groups and Bible studies. Also excellent for personal study. Guide includes reproducible student worksheets for each session.

#4185
$19.95

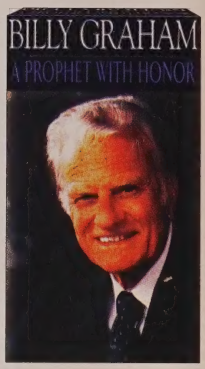


Hanged on a Twisted Cross:
The Life, Convictions and Martyrdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Biblical theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was executed by the Nazis just days before the Allies defeated Germany in World War II. This gripping documentary captures the life, times, and thought of Bonhoeffer. Using rare archival footage, documents, and visits to original locations, we get an intimate and penetrating portrait of a man whose life and writings grow in their influence and speak powerfully to issues of our own day some 50 years after his death. How does a man of peace come to assist violence in combating unrestrained evil? What do you do when deep-seated patriotism for your nation compels you to oppose your fatherland and its demonic leader? These and other issues Bonhoeffer confronted with a searching Biblical faith and personal courage in a way that speaks to every generation.

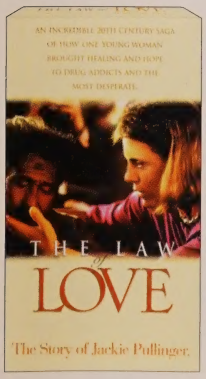
120 minutes, #4186 ℗
$24.95

Billy Graham: A Prophet with Honor



Billy Graham was a farm boy from North Carolina catapulted into a worldwide evangelistic ministry like none other. He was never head of any church or denomination and founded no religion. Yet, his extraordinary work for God has spanned half a century, bringing him before the great and the humble on every continent. In this fast-paced international television special hosted by David Frost we meet Billy Graham and hear in his own words about his unprecedented opportunities and the formidable challenges that marked major turning points for him. Documentary footage, Dr. Graham's own explanations, and comments from friends, associates and critics provide insight into one of the most unusual and influential lives of our era.

50 minutes, #4182 ℗
$19.95



The Law of Love

Twenty-two year old Jackie Pullinger could not get missionary society sponsorship so, sensing God's calling, she went on her own in the early 1960s to Hong Kong. There she began to witness amidst the drug-crazed vice and violence of the old "Walled City." She started a youth outreach for heroin addicts and brought healing to desperate lives through prayer without any use of conventional methods for treating withdrawal. Her amazing work is now internationally renowned and respected. Her courage and strength shine through in this candid documentary that shows us how love can make a difference. This is a story that touches your heart, as you see the power of the Holy Spirit at work.

51 minutes, #4150 ℗
$19.95

Discovering the Bible

This four-part series is a basic introduction to the Bible for those who have little or no background but is also a stimulating refresher for those who have long loved the Bible but never explored the incredible story of where the Bible actually came from and how it was passed on to us. The flexible curriculum can be adapted to a four- or eight-week program. The kit contains everything you will need to introduce the Bible to your group.

Some highlights included in the four programs:

1. Getting Acquainted looks at how the Bible is a book like none other in the history of the world, its continuing influence, how it came to be written, what the Bible consists of, and how it is intended for all and deals with the basic questions we all face.

2. The Old Testament explores its amazing development, a collection that took over a thousand years to write, how it is revered by Jews as a love letter from God, how it is organized, the Dead Sea scrolls, and fascinating evidence of how the scribes accurately preserved the texts over centuries.

3. The New Testament looks at its relationship with the Old, why and how the New Testament came to be written, the writing methods of the period, why we can trust the Gospels as reporting the actual words of Jesus, and how the New Testament canon was formed.

4. Survival, Spread and Influence shows the Bible's influence in the development of Western civilization, how it survived despite repeated attempts to destroy it, how the Bible was taught in the Middle Ages, the recovery of Scripture for the laity, and how the Bible has transformed individual lives across the centuries.

As a special extra, each kit includes a genuine piece of papyrus from the Nile River—the same kind of material on which most of the New Testament was originally written.

Winner of the Gold Award from Worldfest Houston, Angel Award, Telly Award, and U.S. International Film and Video Award.

Complete Curriculum Package Includes:

- Four half-hour programs
- Full-color, 32-page companion overview
- Leader's Guide
- Reproducible student worksheets
- Six bulletin inserts

#4157 ℗
$79.95

1995 Winner
of Best Series Award
from International Christian
Visual Media

Reformation Overview

The Reformation dramatically changed the course of Christian history and Western civilization. Many of the issues faced then still confront us today.

Bring the Reformation alive and introduce your class or group to key reformers and major turning points with this fast-paced video curriculum series. The programs are based on Gateway Film's acclaimed dramatic film series now edited into dynamic half hours with introductions and transitions added from the very places where the momentous events took place.

Complete Curriculum Package Includes:

- Six half-hour video programs
- Curriculum for 6, 12, or 13 sessions
- Teacher's/Leader's manual
- Reproducible student workbooks
- Bulletin inserts for each program

The series covers

- John Wycliffe
- John Hus
- Martin Luther
- Ulrich Zwingli
- John Calvin
- The Anabaptists
- William Tyndale

The accompanying curriculum is flexible so you can adapt to a 6-, 12-, or 13-session format. The films on which this series is based have won over 30 prestigious international film awards.

The full curriculum package includes everything you need for planning a series that will inspire interest, build attendance, stir hearts, and challenge minds. These programs drive viewers to examine what they really believe and why.

These Reformation materials breathed new life into my Sunday School class. Attendance grew and made Christian history become real to us. They showed how the Gospel was brought back to the common people in a language they could understand.

Judge Robert Downing
19th Judicial District , LA

#4110 ℗
$99.95

We offer a 30-day unconditional money-back guarantee. See order form.

Our customers spoke, and we listened!

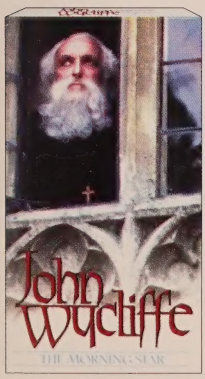
Many of our film users urged us to make our longer Reformation dramatic films available in a shorter format so they could be used in a classroom setting. So we edited our major Reformation titles into half-hour classroom editions. Here you have the key turning points from these longer films and new material we produced just for this series from the original locations where the momentous events took place. We also made a new film on Zwingli and Calvin as they were important for inclusion in any series on the Reformation. We have organized this collection in a curriculum format that provides you a compelling six-, twelve- or thirteen-week course as described on page 6 to the left.

Please note, you have flexibility in what you wish to order. Your best value is the full *Reformation Overview* curriculum package. But if you prefer only specific individual programs of the shortened versions, you may order them separately as they are listed on this and the next pages. You may find that in addition to the curriculum version you will also want to have the full-length originals. They are listed on this and the next pages. We also offer the entire collection of full-length originals at a reduced price. See page 9 for details.

Zwingli & Calvin

This program covers the 16th century Swiss Reformation, its key centers of Zurich and Geneva, and its central leaders, Zwingli and Calvin—two theologians who led tumultuous lives. Zwingli questioned major teachings of the church and instituted sweeping reforms. He sought to apply the Word of God for the transformation of civic and church life. Calvin laid the foundation that made Geneva a unique international center. He wanted only the quiet life of a scholar but was thrust into a critical role in Reformation and theological leadership. This program won the Creative Excellence Award from the U.S. International Film and Video Festival.

28 minutes, #4113 ℗
$19.95

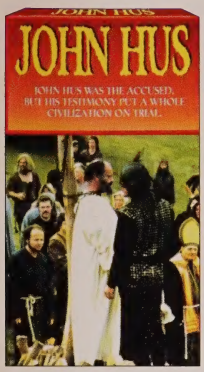


John Wycliffe: The Morningstar

Wycliffe's greatest achievement was the translation of the Bible into English. One of Europe's most renowned philosophers and scholars, John Wycliffe chose to serve the common people. He exposed the superstitions that had displaced Biblical doctrine in the medieval church. Wycliffe took enormous risks to provide the Scriptures for the people. The film provides valuable insight into conditions in the 14th-century pre-Reformation church and shows why Wycliffe is hailed as the "Morningstar of the Reformation." He set the stage for later reformers including Hus, Luther, and Tyndale. This dramatic film inspires faith and develops appreciation for the treasure of our Bible. Winner of "Best Film of the Year" Award from the Christian Film Distribution Association.

75 minutes, #4053 ℗
$19.95

Also available in a 30-minute abridged version, #4134, $19.95.



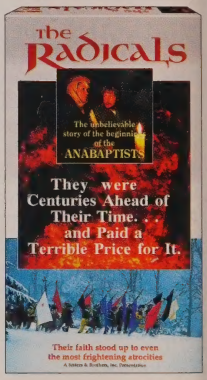
John Hus

A priest and scholar in 15th-century Bohemia in central Europe, John Hus lived 100 years before Martin Luther. His relentless pursuit of God's truth planted the seeds for the Reformation. A beloved pastor, Hus was nevertheless condemned as a heretic at the Council of Constance for his uncompromising belief in the final authority of the Bible, even though he had been guaranteed safety from the emperor. Despite relentless pressure, he refused to recant and was burned at the stake in 1415. He died singing. Viewers typically are moved to consider what they really believe and how important it is to them! A dramatic film awarded "Best Film of the Year" by the Christian Film Distributors Association.

55 minutes, #4051 ℗
$19.95

Also available in a 30-minute abridged version, #4133, $19.95. The full-length version is also available in Spanish, #8108, $19.95.

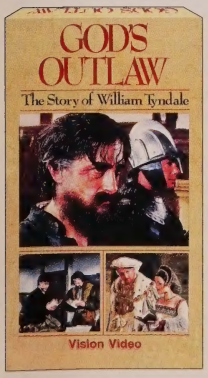
The Radicals—The Anabaptists



In early 16th-century Europe, the Anabaptists blazed the trail for freedom of conscience, separation of church and state, and a believers' church when such convictions earned them only the censure and opposition of pope, Protestant, and prince alike. Discover the humble, sometimes humorous, courageous origins of this movement and two of its first leaders, Michael and Margaretha Sattler. The story of the Anabaptists is one of the most painful yet exhilarating sagas in all human history. The world wasn't ready for their message, and they were not prepared to compromise. A dramatic feature film shown in theaters around the world. A gripping film that causes viewers to stop and think how much their faith really means to them.

100 minutes, #4031 ℗
~~$29.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $19.95

Also available in a 30-minute abridged version, #4135, $19.95.



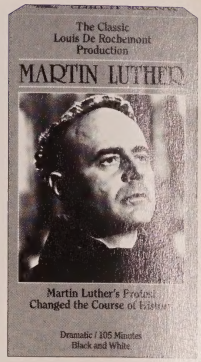
God's Outlaw—William Tyndale

William Tyndale was pursued by the agents of King Henry VIII, Sir Thomas More, and Cardinal Wolsey. To avoid capture, he was forced to travel around Europe. All the while he worked to complete the supreme task that obsessed him: providing the Bible in English for his fellow countrymen. Tyndale is today distinguished as the "Father of the English Bible," and this dramatic film will cause every Christian to appreciate the marvel of the English Bible. Featuring a cast led by actor Roger Rees. Recipient of major awards from the Columbus and Houston Film Festivals and Christian Film Distributors Association.

95 minutes, #4010 ℗
~~$29.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $19.95

Also available in a 30-minute abridged version, #4136, $19.95. The full-length version is also available in Spanish, #0411, $19.95.

Martin Luther



The dramatic black and white classic film of Martin Luther's life made in the 1950s. This film was originally released in theaters worldwide and nominated for an Academy Award. A magnificent depiction of Luther and the forces at work in the surrounding society that resulted in his historic reforming efforts. This film traces Luther's life from a guilt-burdened monk to his eventual break with the Roman Church. This film, in spite of its age, continues to be a popular resource to introduce Luther's life.

105-minutes, #4055 Ⓟ
$19.95

Also available in a 30-minutes abridged version, #4007, $19.95. The full-length version is also available in Spanish, #8127, $19.95.

Full-Length Reformation Dramas Special

The *Reformation Overview* series offers five of our long dramatic programs in a 30-minute abridged format. Many of our customers who buy *Reformation Overview* also want the full-length programs as well. We are pleased to offer you the entire Reformation collection of full-length dramas at a special price:

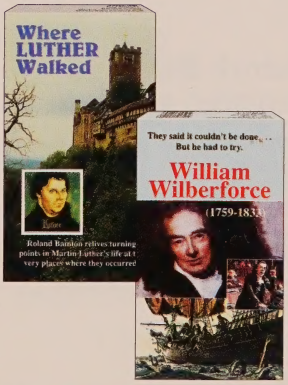
John Wycliffe, #4053
John Hus, #4051
The Radicals, #4031
God's Outlaw, #4010
Martin Luther, #4055

This collection—a $100.00 value—is just $79.95. A 20% savings. Use item # 99727 to order.

Where Luther Walked

Luther scholar, the late Roland Bainton, takes you to actual locations of Luther's life and, with great storytelling ability, recounts major events in the reformer's life. Bainton gives you the feeling that he knew Luther as a friend and brings out his human qualities in a captivating way.

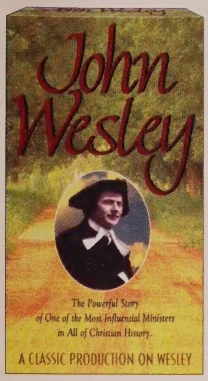
30 minutes, #4012 Ⓟ
$19.95



William Wilberforce

As a young politician Wilberforce dedicated his life to the seemingly impossible task of the abolition of slavery in 18th-century Britain. Finally, after decades of struggle, his cause prevailed. Using an extensive collection of original printings and historical art to tell his story, this video shows the difference committed believers can make in combating social ills. Includes Leader's Guide.

35 minutes, #4070 Ⓟ
$19.95



John Wesley: A Biography

NOW ON VIDEO!

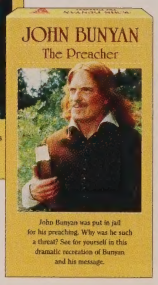
A re-release of the J. Arthur Rank historical classic made in 1954. This cinema drama follows the life of Wesley from when he was saved out of a burning house as a child and thereby marked for life as a 'brand from the burning.' His Oxford days, a disastrous mission to America, his decisive Aldersgate conversion, bringing the Gospel out of the church and into the daily lives of alienated masses, the founding of Methodism, and his astounding role in raising the moral and religious climate in 18th century England are set forth with careful dependence on the historical sources.

73 minutes, #4183 ℗
$19.95

John Wesley: The Preacher

John Wesley's messages cut to the heart of his 18th-century listeners. You'll see why as you experience this captivating message as given by one of the most powerful preachers ever. This dramatic BBC reenactment of Wesley's preaching was shot on location at his Bristol church. Study Guide included.

30 minutes, #4008 ℗
$24.95



John Bunyan: The Preacher

John Bunyan is best remembered for *The Pilgrim's Progress*. In his own day, he was known as a soul-stirring preacher. But he was a "nonconformist" and an "unauthorized" preacher. Nevertheless, nothing could stop him from proclaiming the Gospel. Don't miss this authentic sample of 17th-century Puritan preaching.

30 minutes, #4016 ℗
$24.95

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Memories and Perspectives

For those who want a close and intimate portrait of Bonhoeffer. This video follows the life of the martyred theologian as vividly recalled by those closest to him: his friends, family, and students. Included are Bonhoeffer family photographs that have never been shown before. An emotionally wrenching documentary that probes the struggles and motivations of Bonhoeffer in a way that makes one ask anew: "What does it mean to be a Christian in the 20th century world?"

90 minutes, B&W, #4015 ℗
$19.95

60-minute abridged version also available, #4137, $19.95.

Also available is a new release on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, ***Hanged on a Twisted Cross.*** See page 4 for details.

The History of Orthodox Christianity

There are between 180 to 215 million Orthodox Christians around the world. They are a majority in ten countries and territories and are over 10% of the population in fourteen other nations. This three-part series is intended as an introduction to the Orthodox Church—its life, teachings and traditions. The programs, produced by GOTelecom (Greek Orthodox Telecommunications), will be especially appreciated by those unfamiliar with this ancient Christian church. The production was filmed in Greece, Israel, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Russia, Italy, England, and the United States.

In Part I, *The Beginnings*, the journey begins with the founding of the Church and continues with the spread of Christianity to the "nations" by the Apostles. This is the period of persecutions and martyrdom and the subsequent legalization of the Church during the birth of Byzantium. 30 minutes, #4092

Part II, *Byzantium*, covers the spread of the Gospel to the Slavic people, the development of the Monastic movement, the Great Schism between East and West, and the last hours of Constantinople. 30 minutes, #4093

Part III, *A Hidden Treasure*, explores the captivity of Orthodoxy under Islam (after the fall of Byzantium) and Communism (in Eastern Europe). Massive immigration allowed Orthodoxy to flourish in the New World, but presented new challenges for the future. The leaders of World Orthodoxy provide insight into the essence of their Church today. 30 minutes, #4094

Includes comprehensive Study Guide
Full three-tape set $79.95, #4095 ℗
Individual tapes $29.95

Jan Amos Comenius

Driven from his homeland because of his faith, this 17th century Christian hero is a testimony of the persistence of Christian courage. Comenius, commonly hailed as the "Father of Modern Education," was stripped of everything but hope…and a vision for the kingdom of God. This major dramatic feature was filmed in Comenius' native land, Czechoslovakia. A Columbus Film Festival award winner.

73 minutes, #4011 ℗
$19.95

C. H. Spurgeon Tonight

One of the greatest preachers of his time and of all time! Six thousand people gathered to hear him twice each Sunday for 40 years in the London Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle. This film documents his life and gives samples of his messages through a one-man stage presentation with Spurgeon scholar, Dr. Craig Skinner.

56 minutes, #4017 ℗
$19.95

Israel: A Nation is Born

Tensions in the Middle East continue to occupy the news. These programs help to put it all in perspective. We arranged to offer them because we felt they represented the best video material we had seen to help understand the background to present-day Israel and the ongoing challenges facing the Middle East. This highly acclaimed PBS series with former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban chronicles his recollections of, and his part in, the creation and subsequent history of the State of Israel.

Part I portrays the rise of Zionism and President Truman's mounting pressure for a Jewish State, following the Holocaust and continued post-war European Jewish plight. It moves through the struggle for independence, providing stunning insight into events of the time.

Part II opens with the proclamation of Israeli Statehood in 1948 and follows the invasion of the newborn State by its Arab neighbors, the siege and fall of Jerusalem and the initial peace process. It also covers the flood of immigrants returning to their traditional homeland and the development of the State of Israel in the early 1950's.

Part III explains how Israel ended its isolation, culminating in the combined Anglo-French-Israeli Sinai Campaign of 1956. It reveals Abba Eban's personal involvement in the plan to bring Adolf Eichmann to trial in Israel and concludes with Nasser plotting a maritime blockage and invasion of Israel, as U.N. forces leave the area. Includes interviews with President Nixon.

Part IV starts with events surrounding the Six Day War of 1967 which changed Israel beyond the scope of anyone's imagination. Eban leads diplomatic efforts at the U.N. resulting in resolution 242 and tells how post-war attempts to achieve peace failed and a long-term war of attrition ensued.

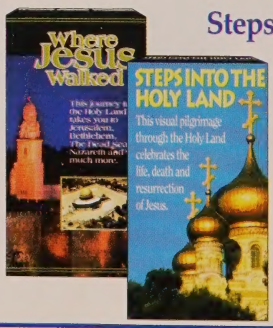
Part V opens with the 1973 surprise attack by Egypt and Syria, which came to be known as the Yom Kippur War. It also covers the Camp David Accord, leading to the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, the 1982 invasion of Lebanon and the Intifada.

Five 55-minute tapes, #4166 Ⓟ
~~$149.95~~ NOW $99.95

Where Jesus Walked

This video journey through the Holy Land takes you to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Dead Sea, Nazareth, Jericho, Capernaum, Mt. Tabor, the Garden of Gethsemane, the River Jordan and much more. Breathtaking photography and dramatic background music will leave a lasting impression on all those who make this video visit.

30 minutes, #31213, 14.95



Steps into the Holy Land

Retrace the footsteps of Jesus through this visual tour of the Holy Land. Visit the sites of His miracles. Tour Bethlehem, Calvary, Nazareth and Jerusalem. This journey makes the Old and New Testaments of the Bible come alive. Spectacular cinematography together with an inspired narration leave a lasting impression on all who follow this visual pilgrimage.

60 minutes, #83121, $19.95

From Christ to Constantine: The Trial and Testimony of the Early Church

Winner of Silver Angel from Angel Awards and Chris Award from Columbus International Film and Video Festival

The first three centuries were decisive for Christianity. The very existence of the church itself was threatened by powerful opponents who wanted to destroy it. These programs go to the locations and use dramatic re-creations to bring you close to the early believers.

A great attendance builder, this series has proven to be especially popular for small groups, Bible studies, and Sunday school. The support material is designed so that lay people can effectively and comfortably lead a group through this fascinating period of church beginnings.

- Shot at original locations.
- Complete curriculum for 6 or 12 sessions.
- Your kit includes six 30-minute programs, curriculum, full-color companion book, film scripts, leader's guide, and reproducible student worksheets and bulletin inserts.

#4043 Ⓟ
$99.95

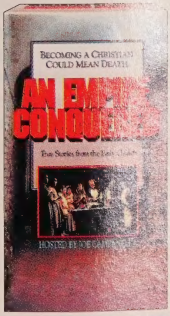
Highlights from the six video programs:

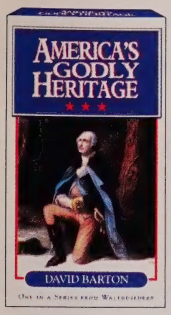
1. **Foundations** What happened to the 12 apostles?
2. **Spread** The Word was for all. An impossible task. How did they bring their message to the world?
3. **Accusations** Believers were subject to many charges, some outrageously false and others true. How did they answer them?
4. **Persecutions** The mightiest empire in history outlawed and persecuted the believers. What happened and why?
5. **Testimony** A close-up look at heroes who would pay with their lives rather than deny their faith.
6. **Transition** Constantine granted the church legality and favor. Was this a bane or blessing? Why did the church succeed?

An Empire Conquered

A moving docu-drama filmed in Rome that brings to life the intriguing days of the early Christians when followers of Christ were cruelly persecuted and martyred for their beliefs. This film looks at five such Christians who lived during those turbulent years—Augustus, Clement, Cecilia, Apollonius, and Agnes. Narrated by the Emmy Award-winning actor, Joseph Campanella. Includes Study Guide.

52 minutes, #4084 Ⓟ
$19.95

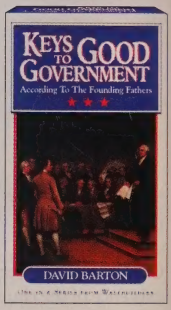




America's Godly Heritage

This David Barton presentation sets forth the beliefs of many of the famous Founding Fathers concerning the proper role of Christian principles in education, government, and the public affairs of the nation. The beliefs of Founders such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and John Quincy Adams are clearly presented, accompanied by famous artwork from America's history. Additionally, see excerpts from court cases which demonstrate that for 160 years, Christian principles were inseparable from public affairs.

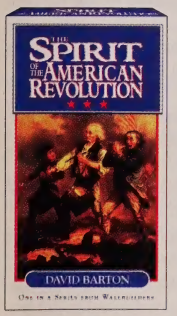
59 minutes, #7947 Ⓟ
$19.95



Keys to Good Government

America was founded as a unique experiment based on some clear moral assumptions. However, today scandal and corruption in government affairs have become so common as to be almost taken for granted. How does the present situation differ from the original vision? Discover the keys to good government by investigating the wise counsel and instruction of early leaders. David Barton argues that the key to our future may lie in rediscovering our past!

59 minutes, #7935 Ⓟ
$19.95



The Spirit of the American Revolution

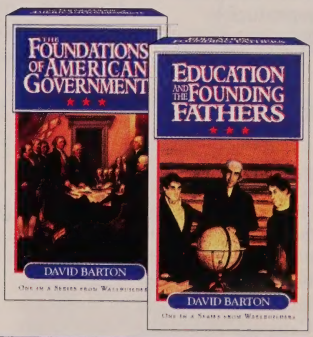
The American Revolution was to dream the unthinkable: 56 men who pledged their "lives, fortunes, and sacred honor" to establish an independent nation. What was the spirit that motivated these men? Investigate both the words and actions of the individuals who signed the Declaration of Independence—men such as Benjamin Rush, Samuel Huntington, Stephen Hopkins, Matthew Thornton, and Samuel Chase—and witness their strong reliance upon God for direction.

55 minutes, #7931 Ⓟ
$19.95

The Foundations of American Gov't

This video demonstrates that many of the current concepts related to the "separation of Church and State" were never intended by the Founding Fathers. The program surveys and analyzes the historical records on the drafting of the First Amendment and shows how much the original intent has been perverted.

25 minutes, #7926 Ⓟ
$9.95



All five Wallbuilders programs for $79.95!
A savings of $10.00! #99736

Education & the Founding Fathers

Few would dispute that the educational system in America today is in a state of crisis. Can we learn anything from the wisdom of earlier days and leaders? This program uncovers the views and assumptions of some of our greatest thinkers and political pioneers regarding the essentials of how education should be pursued in America.

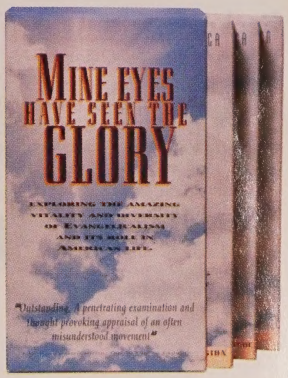
60 minutes, #7919 Ⓟ
$19.95

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

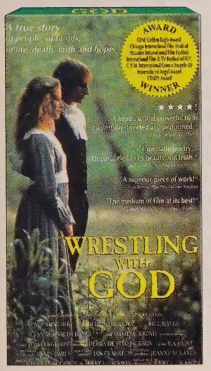
A three-part special PBS series of programs about Evangelicals in America. Host Randall Balmer traveled throughout the U.S. to uncover the richness, diversity, and energy of the Evangelical movement. The result is an intimate look at who the Evangelicals are, what they believe and what difference their faith makes in their lives. It also shows how they seek to protect their children from the corrupting influences of society and how they are trying to change the world. Also treated are emerging forms of Evangelicalism that suggest what their future may be like.

This series makes an ideal six-week study to consider the diversity of Evangelical expression and how Christians are perceived by others. A sure-fire discussion starter!

Three 55-minute programs on three tapes plus a Leader's Guide in a special gift box. #4072
~~$49.95~~ SALE PRICE! $39.95



Part 1: America's Folk Religion
Part 2: The Making of a Subculture
Part 3: Coming of Age



Wrestling with God

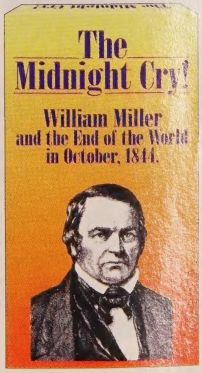
He faced an energetic young America riddled with religious zealots of every persuasion, all claiming that their particular brand of religion was the only right one. Alexander Campbell sought to pare away the layers of human-made doctrine and rediscover God's truth at the source: Holy Scripture and the elegant simplicity of Christ's teachings. He built a large following that became known as the "Restoration Movement" that has millions of adherents today in such groups as the Disciples of Christ and The Churches of Christ. A dramatic film and insightful look into a prominent movement in America's religious experience.

72 minutes, #3950 ℗
$19.95

The Midnight Cry

As the year 2000 approaches, "end of the world" prophets will increase. This program offers valuable perspective on interpretations of Bible prophecy. An historical documentary on one of the most fascinating episodes in American religious history. In the fall of 1844, hundreds of thousands of Americans were inspired by the teachings and predictions of Baptist preacher William Miller and feared that the world would be destroyed by fire as he predicted at the second coming of Christ on October 22, 1844. Narrated by Cliff Robertson, this program uses original documents, stunning location footage, rich contemporary drawings and paintings, expert commentary, and moving readings from writers of the time. Includes Discussion Guide.

102 minutes, #31253 ℗
~~$29.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $24.95



Becket

This gripping drama depicts the historical account of King Henry II and Thomas Becket, his closest confidant and advisor. Becket finds himself moved towards an uncompromising devotion to God, a rival with whom Henry II cannot compete. The king becomes obsessed with the changed Becket, which results in ultimate tragedy. Letter box edition. Parental discretion advised.

150 minutes, #7282
$39.95

A Man for All Seasons

A notable international cast brings to life one of the most thrilling dramas of intrigue and courage. Robert Shaw plays the lusty King Henry VIII who wants to divorce his wife in order to marry the beautiful Anne Boleyn. Only Sir Thomas More has the courage and conviction to oppose the King's will. A campaign is begun to discredit More. Eventually, his valiant refusal to abandon his principles leads to More's death.

120 minutes, #9967
$19.95

Cromwell

Richard Harris stars in this dazzling historical epic as Oliver Cromwell, the fiery commoner who took on the monarchy and influenced the course of Western Civilization. Alec Guinness lends his formidable presence as the enigmatic and forceful King Charles I. This historic tale of power and passion features strong performances and gripping battle sequences. Includes comprehensive Study Guide.

139 minutes, #0003
~~$24.95~~ $19.95

The Diary of Anne Frank

Based on the real diary of 13-year-old Anne Frank, this Academy Award-winning film chronicles the lives of two Jewish families as they hide from the Nazis in a tiny Amsterdam attic. Throughout the two-year ordeal, Anne's unceasing belief in the future soars way beyond her terrible confinement. Starring Millie Perkins and Shelley Winters.

Two tapes, 170 min. B&W, #98663
$24.95

The Scarlet and the Black

This outstanding film tells the thrilling true story of an Irish priest in the Vatican who organizes an underground network in Rome to hide the Jews and others from the Nazis during World War II. Gregory Peck stars as Msgr. Hugh O'Flaherty, who uses disguises to do his dangerous work and hide from the ruthless Nazi commander (Christopher Plummer) who wants to murder the priest. A film guaranteed to inspire!

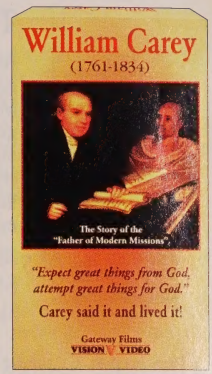
145 minutes, #8994
$14.95

A Man Called Peter

The true story of Peter Marshall, the Scottish-born minister who became Chaplain of the U.S. Senate. As a young man Peter experiences an unwavering conviction that he has been called upon to do the Lord's work. He eventually becomes pastor of a prestigious church in Washington, D.C. and is asked to serve as spiritual guide for the U.S. Senate. A deeply moving tale of "a man and his close friendship with God."

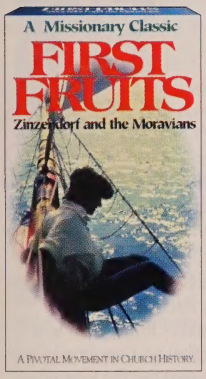
117 minutes, #2318
$19.95

William Carey



William Carey has been called the "Father of Modern Missions," the one who jolted the Protestant churches into world mission involvement. Carey's own story is both tragic and triumphant. It is tragic as the tale of a humble cobbler and illegal immigrant to India who lost a son to tropical disease, a wife to madness, and labored seven years before seeing his first convert. It is triumphant as the story of an uneducated servant of God who transcended unspeakable adversity, became Professor of Languages, founded an important college and scores of schools, and translated the Scriptures into 36 dialects. An essential program for all interested in missions. Documentary.

35 minutes, #9894 ℗
~~$29.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $19.95



First Fruits

Here is a true story about the extraordinary devotion of young people and their role at a critical point in the history of world missions. In the 1730s a community of Moravian refugees finds a home on the estate of Count Zinzendorf in Germany. But soon they look beyond themselves to reach out to a needy world. You will see how the first two young men who went as missionaries to the slaves on St. Thomas were willing to become slaves themselves, if they had to, in order to proclaim the Gospel. This historical drama captures the heartbeat of missions for all believers of any age. Winner of "Best Film of the Year" Award from Christian Film Distribution Association.

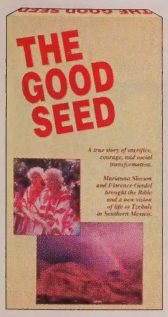
70 minutes, #4009 ℗
$19.95

Also available in Spanish, #8087

Mama Luka Comes Home

Doctor Helen Roseveare, affectionately called "Mama Luka," pioneered vital medical work in the rain forests of the Belgian Congo—now Zaire. Her life and ministry there is an almost legendary story of 20th-century heroism. After Independence in 1964, the country was ravaged by the Simba Rebellion. Helen, caught up in the horror of the revolution, was beaten, raped and imprisoned by the rebels. *Mama Luka Comes Home* vividly tells her story of forgiveness and faithfulness to those she came to serve. This is a story of love overcoming hatred, brutality, and racial prejudice as well as an unforgettable saga depicting the sacrificial and redemptive roles of those who serve as missionaries of the gospel.

60 minutes, #4066 ℗
$19.95



The Good Seed

A remarkable case study of how a remote tribe was transformed in one generation by the Gospel. Marianna Slocum and Florence Gerdel went to Mexico to bring the Tzeltal Indian tribe the Scriptures in their own language. At first they experienced heartbreak and much opposition. Then, a mighty movement of the Spirit of God occurred, affecting the whole society. The Indians then sent these two women to Columbia to reach others there. This film visits the locations to show the life-changing results of their mission. A contemporary story reminiscent of New Testament Christianity.

30 minutes, #4028 ℗
$19.95

Also available in Spanish, #4059

Through Gates of Splendor

One of the most gripping missionary sagas of our time. Five missionaries went into the land of the savage Aucas. Their offer of friendship was rejected, and the Aucas killed the missionaries. Elizabeth Elliot, wife of one of the martyrs, her daughter and Rachel Saint would not give up and eventually lived among and brought the Gospel to the Aucas. *Through Gates of Splendor* is an effective demonstration of God's grace at work during an unforgettable moment in modern missions history.

36 minutes, #8010 ℗
$19.95

Also available in Spanish, #9995

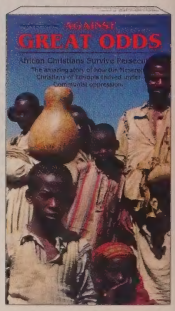
Peace Child

The notable and inspiring story of Don and Carol Richardson and their missionary work in the remote jungles of the Southwest Pacific. They are shocked when the story of Judas' betrayal of Jesus makes him a hero to a primitive people who revere treachery. When inter-tribal warfare breaks out, a chief offers his son as the means of bringing peace, making the Gospel understandable as these new missionaries discover the "Peace Child." A heartwarming story that provides valuable insight into modern missions.

30 minutes, #4925 ℗
$24.95

Also available in Spanish, #2766

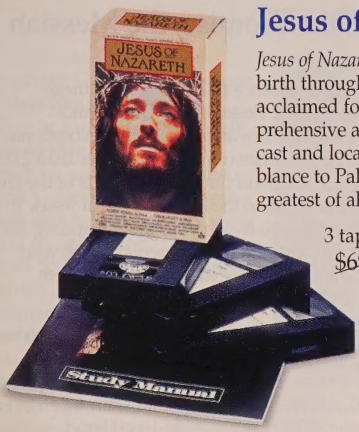
Against Great Odds



A great program on church growth, small groups and faithfulness in times of trial. It examines the growth of the Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia. In 1982 the Marxist government closed all of their congregations and put their leaders in prison. The church went underground and continued meeting in homes. After the overthrow of the Marxist government in 1991, the church resurfaced to discover that they had grown tenfold, from 5,000 to 50,000 members. The film uncovers the secret of this amazing survival and growth under oppression. A valuable resource on small groups and house churches.

29 minutes, #4079 ℗
~~$24.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $19.95
Also available in Spanish, #4144, ~~$24.95~~ 19.95

Special quantity discounts available. See order form for details.



Jesus of Nazareth

Jesus of Nazareth is a unique film depicting the life of Christ from His birth through His resurrection. Franco Zeffirelli's production is acclaimed for its thorough Biblical and historical research. This comprehensive and faithful film features a distinguished international cast and locations specially chosen for their pure and simple resemblance to Palestine at the time of Jesus. This epic series tells the greatest of all stories with tremendous emotion and splendor.

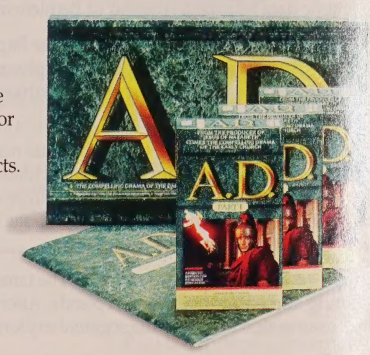
3 tapes, 371 minutes total, #1137
~~$69.95~~ SPECIAL PRICE! $49.95

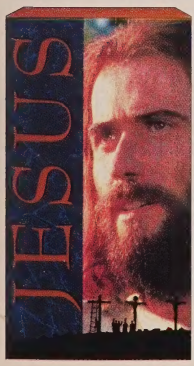
Optional extra: A 62-page Study Guide for a 12-week, visually stimulating study on the life of Christ that parallels the video. #99755, $9.95

A.D.

The earliest experiences of the Christian church after Jesus' ascension are powerfully dramatized in this remarkably authentic TV mini-series epic covering the years A.D. 30-69. The perfect resource for any church or home study group wishing to explore the New Testament period, the Early Church, or the Book of Acts. This Biblically and historically accurate drama comes complete with a 52-page Study Guide providing a 12-week course. The spectacular scope of the project and performances from an all-star cast also make great Bible-based home entertainment.

3 tapes, 360 minutes total, #2883
~~$99.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $89.95



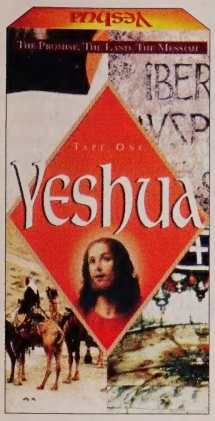


Jesus

A film on the life of Jesus so true-to-life you'll feel like you are in first century Palestine with the Savior. Workshop teams painstakingly studied the clothing, architecture, customs and food to ensure the film's complete authenticity. *Jesus* was filmed on location in Israel in Biblical settings with a cast of more than 5,000 Israelis and Arabs. (This program is an abridged version of *The Bible on Video: The Book of Luke*. See page 21.)

120 minutes, #9964
~~$29.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $24.95

Also available in Spanish, #9965, $24.95.



Yeshua: The Land, the Promise, the Messiah

Available August 1, 1996

Yeshua, the Hebrew name for Jesus, offers a fascinating pilgrimage through Scripture and the life of Jesus. Presented by Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, *Yeshua* reveals ancient customs and beliefs with exceptional clarity and detail. This five-program series moves across more than 2,000 years of history, from the time of Abraham through the efforts of the Jews to possess and hold the promised land, to the birth and life of Jesus. To view *Yeshua* from beginning to end is to enrich your understanding not only of the turning point in all history, but of the singular figure who caused the turning. Five programs, approximately 50 minutes each. Includes comprehensive Study Guide.

The Land and the Promise: Ur of the Chaldees, birthplace of Abraham, begins the narrative. Continuing through the fall of Ur, Abraham's entrance into the promised land, and the exile of the chosen people in Egypt, part one ends with their return to a homeland soon taken over by Rome and governed by the wily, paranoid half-Jew, Herod.

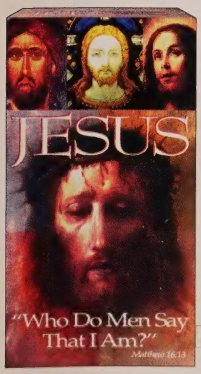
The Promise Takes Root: This episode begins with the angel's visit to Mary and proceeds through the presentation of Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem after the family's return from exile. Fascinating scientific data relating to the star of Bethlehem is presented.

Voice and the Light: The cries of John the Baptist lead into a portrayal of the community of zealous Jews at Qumran where John, perhaps orphaned as a child, may have grown up. Moving through the events of Jesus' early ministry, we also witness the beautiful reenactment of a Jewish wedding as Jesus might have seen it at Cana.

The Bread of Sacrifice: As the life of Jesus nears its tragic close, He prepares His followers for His coming sacrifice. We see archeological evidence for the practice of human sacrifice in caves beneath the North African city of Carthage, but draw nearer to the meaning of Christ's sacrifice in the story of Abraham's willingness to kill his son Isaac in obedience to the will of God. The segment ends with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Ripple of Darkness, Waves of Light: The familiar mysteries of Christ's death and resurrection take on a strong immediacy in this final episode. After dramatic reenactments of the torture, execution, burial and resurrection of Christ, the segment explores research on the Shroud of Turin.

Five 50-minute programs on two tapes with Study Guide, #5211 Ⓟ
$39.95

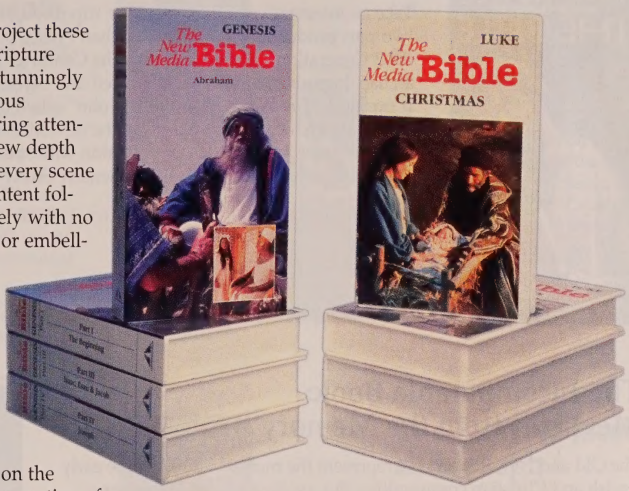


Jesus: "Who Do Men Say That I Am?"

At this hour, millions would die for Him! Why? Who is this unforgettable man called Jesus? There is none other like Him in all history. Is He the King of Kings? Was He a man of miracles, a religious rebel, or just an imposter? Do modern Americans think of Him as a prophet, teacher, or God? Intriguing investigations with everyday people and leading Bible scholars reveal some refreshing and often startling answers. Here is an intelligent, thought-provoking portrait that will challenge all who watch. This powerful film contains answers that may change your life or the life of a friend or relative who really wants to know who Jesus is and what He has to do with our lives today.

48 minutes, #4163 Ⓟ
$19.95

The Bible on Video



From the Genesis Project these videotapes bring Scripture alive in a new and stunningly visual way. Meticulous research and unsparing attention to detail give new depth and authenticity to every scene and chapter. The content follows Scripture entirely with no added commentary or embellishment. As you see the people, places, and events of the Bible come to life, you will gain new understanding and appreciation for Scripture. From Abraham and Isaac on the mountain to the Resurrection of Jesus, your group or family will be touched by the simple yet profound power of the Word of God. Narrated drama. Eight 60-100 minute programs in Revised Standard Version. (King James Version available upon request.) Also available in Spanish.

4-tape set of Genesis, $59.95, #5582 Ⓟ
4-tape set of Luke, $59.95, #6111 Ⓟ
Both sets (8 tapes) for $99.95, #99865

Also available in Spanish at $59.95 each:
4-tape set of Genesis, #5622
4-tape set of Luke, #8149

O'Shea

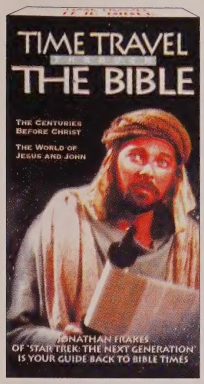
In the Old Testament book of Hosea, God tells his prophet to marry the prostitute Gomer! Startling, yes, but it's an episode filled with insight into how God treats his people even when they are unfaithful. *O'Shea* is a delightful adaptation of Hosea set in America during the Great Depression. It's designed for older teenagers and adults and serves as both an introduction to the book of Hosea and a powerful discussion starter on human relationship with God. Discussion Guide included.

20 minutes, #4026 Ⓟ
$19.95
Available in Spanish, #4069

I, Paul

Paul is in prison. Concern for the future of the churches weighs heavily upon him. He ponders how to guide his young disciple. The result is Paul's legacy to the ages in the form of his Second Epistle to Timothy. With clarity and power, the imprisoned Paul gives forth his message. This re-enacted slice of New Testament life uses Scripture itself for the entire script and captures the passion and compassion of Paul as he neared the end of his life. High school to adult.

26 minutes, #4018 Ⓟ
$19.95
Also available in Spanish, #4063

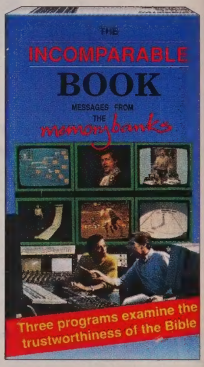


Time Travel through the Bible

Take an informative and entertaining trip through the Bible in this two-part production hosted by Jonathan Frakes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation." Part I explores "The Centuries Before Christ" as archaeological treasures are discovered and mysteries are probed. Part II explores "The World of Jesus and John" when the cruel and paranoid King Herod sought to destroy the new Messiah. An historically rich and entertaining video presentation with special appeal to teens and young adults. Includes comprehensive Study Guide.

Two parts on one tape, 107 minutes total, #5203 Ⓟ
$24.95

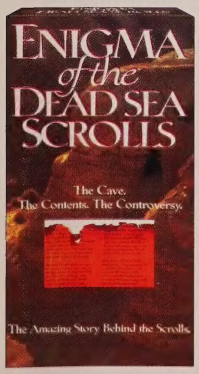
The Incomparable Book: Messages from the Memory Banks



The Old and New Testaments represent the memory banks of the early Jewish and Christian communities. But are they reliable? How carefully were the documents copied? What about before things were written down? Were writers telling us the truth? These are just a few of the questions which are explored in this intriguing three-part series. *The Incomparable Book* combines modern television techniques with established methods of inquiry. In the words of one youth leader, "It puts Bible scholarship into the language of the video age." The host is Paul Jones, former lead singer with Manfred Mann band. High school to adult. 28-page Study Guide included.

Part 1: Today's News—Tomorrow's Evidence
Part 2: From Honest Beginnings?
Part 3: Telling It Like It Is!

Three 20-minute segments, #4065 Ⓟ
~~$29.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $24.95



Enigma of the Dead Sea Scrolls

An introduction and examination of key issues related to the Dead Sea Scrolls, widely regarded as the most significant archeological discovery of the twentieth century. In 1947 a shepherd boy casually tossed a rock into a cave, heard pottery shatter, investigated, and found scrolls that have provided amazing and invaluable insight into first century Judaism, Christianity, and Palestine. But in addition to the remarkable discoveries there remains much mystery and intrigue as scholars and administrators have fought over access to the materials. This program investigates the scrolls, the controversies, the key players, and what the discoveries have contributed to our understanding of the ancient world and the Bible.

50 minutes, #01416 Ⓟ
$19.95

The Ten Commandments

For sheer pageantry and spectacle, few films can equal its splendor. It tells the story of Moses (Charlton Heston), once favored by the Pharaoh's (Yul Brynner) house, who turned his back on a privileged life and responded to God's call to lead his people to freedom. Filmed in Egypt and the Sinai with one of the biggest sets ever constructed for a motion picture.

Two tapes, 220 min. #2107
$29.95

King of Kings

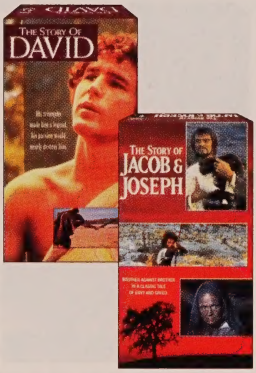
Jeffrey Hunter stars in this beautifully filmed life of Christ. Panoramic scenes of battles between Roman legions and Judean rebels contrast with the serene faith of Jesus. Includes scenes of Christ's Sermon on the Mount, His selection of the apostles, His Passion, Crucifixion and Ascension. The life of Christ with simplicity, taste and reverence.

Two tapes, 170 min. #6893
$24.95

The Story of David

This TV mini-series is an excellent introduction to and overview of David's life. It comes with a study guide for a flexible, multi-session breakdown of this 3-hour and 11-minute epic program. Use for a class or personal enrichment and enjoyment. Presents David in all his humanity and dignity—a fellow and flawed human being who rose to greatness and had a heart for God. Includes Biblical Reference and Study Guide.

Two tapes, 191 min. #0990
$29.95



The Story of Jacob and Joseph

Another great program for Bible study or personal enrichment. Jacob steals his older brother's birthright from his aging father, Isaac. Twenty years later, as reconciliation brings Jacob and Esau together, a new generation of envy is born. Jacob's sons envy their brother Joseph and sell him as a slave. He becomes the Pharaoh's chief advisor but cannot forget his family, and offers his forgiveness. Includes Biblical Reference and Study Guide.

96 minutes, #0992
$19.95

Samson and Delilah

The glorious epic style of Cecil B. DeMille is exemplified in this story of the Bible's legendary strongman and the woman who betrays him. Victor Mature is the classic Samson, muscular and fearless, and Hedy Lamarr is Delilah, the irresistible lady with the scissors. The action is captivating and of magnificent proportions, and the enormous cast and the splendor of the production add to the spectacle.

Two tapes, 128 min. #0584
$29.95

The Bible: In the Beginning

The Bible is brought to the screen with astounding scope in this internationally acclaimed film that depicts the first 22 chapters of Genesis. Highlights include the Creation, Noah, and the Tower of Babel. From its opening, amidst cosmic chaos, to its message of hope and salvation, *The Bible* is a monumental motion picture achievement. Stars George C. Scott.

Two tapes, 171 min. #1020
$29.95

FROM THE TNT BIBLE COLLECTION

Abraham

This powerful film, which premiered on TNT and stars Richard Harris and Barbara Hershey, is based on the moving story in which an ordinary shepherd is called upon by God to show his abiding faith in extraordinary ways. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, embark on a difficult journey through the desert to the Promised Land where Abraham would become father to countless generations.

150 minutes, #6324
$19.95

Jacob

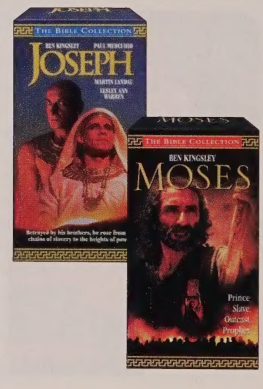
Matthew Modine and Lara Flynn Boyle turn in heartfelt performances as Jacob and Rachel in this poignant romance. Jacob agrees to work for seven years in order to marry the woman he loves, only to be deceived by her father. Forced to start a family with another woman, Jacob agrees to continue his labor in order to win the love of his life.

94 minutes, #6302
$19.95

Joseph

Joseph, the favorite son of Jacob, is the enemy of his jealous brothers. After surviving a close brush with death, Joseph is sold to a powerful Egyptian and faces unbearable tests of cruelty and pain. Joseph's master's wife falsely accuses him of treachery and rape. What looks like sure tragedy ends in the greatest triumph in this powerful epic as the goodness of God transcends the evil intents of men. Starring Paul Mercurio, Ben Kingsley and Martin Landau.

Two tapes, 185 min. #6342
$19.95



Moses **Available Sept. '96**

Moses is awe-struck when God, in the form of a burning bush, calls him to guide the Israelites out of bondage. The reluctant leader and his flock begin the treacherous journey to the Promised Land. However, Pharaoh intends to stop the exodus and with his brutal army traps the Israelites by the Red Sea. Yet these Israelites are God's chosen people, and the waters part, allowing their safe passage. Starring Ben Kingsley.

Two tapes, 184 min. #6357
$19.95

St. John in Exile

The year is 96 A.D. Thousands of Christians throughout the Roman Empire have been persecuted and killed. John, the last living disciple of Jesus' twelve, has been imprisoned. Though he is 86 years old and confined to a cave on Patmos, John refuses to surrender. In this one-man presentation by Dean Jones we relive the moving events which changed the course of human history.

95 minutes, #1031
~~$24.95~~ SPECIAL PRICE! $19.95

The Story of Ruth

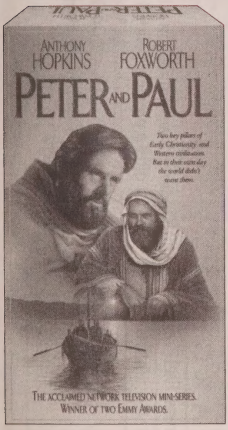
Ruth, a young Moabite woman, marries Mahlon the Judean, who believes in a merciful God. When he dies, she leaves her own culture to be with her mother-in-law, Naomi. They journey to Judea where Ruth faces hostility as a stranger. She wins the hearts of two powerful men, Boaz and Tob, who vie for her affections, but Ruth's first loyalties are to Naomi and her faith.

132 minutes, #2298
$19.95

We offer a 30-day unconditional money-back guarantee. See order form.

NOW AVAILABLE ON VIDEO!

PETER AND PAUL



This distinguished production starring Anthony Hopkins and Robert Foxworth chronicles the saga of the two apostles through three epochal decades and their far-ranging journeys in which they endure incredible tortures along the way. The drama concludes in Rome around A.D. 64 when the devoted Paul is beheaded and Peter is crucified, both with the same courage and dignity they exhibited during their lives.
194 minutes on two tapes, #4184
$49.95

104-page Teacher's Guide with Student Worksheets
Includes complete background and preparation material for leaders to conduct 13 sessions on *Peter and Paul* based on the Biblical sources. Excellent resource for Sunday Schools, small groups and Bible studies. Also excellent for personal study. Guide includes reproducible student worksheets for each session. #4185
$19.95

OUR ALL-TIME BEST-SELLERS

The Cross and the Switchblade
This is the true story of the beginning of David Wilkerson's ministry to the gangs of New York City and the conversion of Nicky Cruz, the notorious gang leader. Starring Pat Boone and Eric Estrada. 105 minutes, #4052, $19.95 (Available in Spanish for $19.95, #8029)

The "original" Shadowlands
Relive the journey of C. S. Lewis during the days prior to and after the cancer-related death of his wife, Joy. Experience with Lewis his love, grief, pain, and sorrow. Starring Joss Ackland and Claire Bloom. 73 minutes, #4054, $19.95

The Fourth Wise Man
A Magi named Artaban (Martin Sheen) sees a sign in the heavens that he hopes will lead him and his servant to the Messiah. They pursue Jesus for 33 years, finally encountering the new King on Easter Sunday. 72 minutes, #4083, $19.95 (Available in Spanish, #6207)

Jesus of Nazareth
Franco Zeffirelli's acclaimed production tells the greatest of all stories with tremendous emotion and splendor. 3 tapes, 371 minutes total, #1137, ~~$69.95~~ $49.95 (62-page study guide, #99755, $9.95)

Martin Luther
This dramatic black and white classic film of Martin Luther's life made in the 1950s traces Luther's life from a guilt-burdened monk to his eventual break with the Roman Church. 30-minute abridged (#4007) or 105-minute full-length version (#4055), $19.95 (Full-length version also available in Spanish, #8127)

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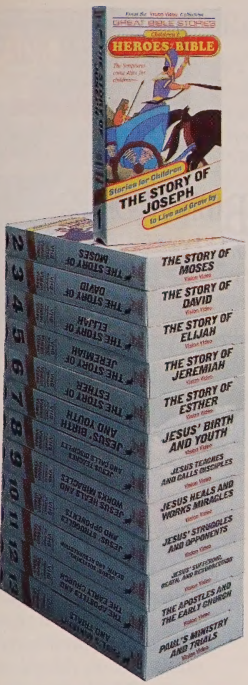


Children's Heroes of the Bible

This 13-volume set is a wonderful way to introduce children to the great people, events, teachings and stories of the Old and New Testaments. Designed with a child's viewing habits in mind, these animated programs do not introduce magic or inventions, but deal only with the Biblical stories and are based squarely on Scripture. Approximately 23 minutes each.

New Testament:

Jesus' Birth and Youth Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem where Jesus is born but flee when Herod issues a decree. Jesus becomes a carpenter and is baptized by John. #4125

Jesus Teaches and Calls Disciples Peter and Andrew meet Jesus. Jesus tells the story of the Prodigal Son and heals a sick man. #4126

Jesus Heals and Works Miracles Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan, heals a man with a withered hand, calms a storm at sea, and feeds a large crowd. #4127

Jesus' Struggles and Opponents Jesus resurrects Lazarus, rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, celebrates Passover with the disciples, and is arrested. #4128

Jesus' Suffering, Death and Resurrection Jesus is tried, and Peter denies knowing Him. Jesus is crucified, but His empty tomb is later discovered. #4129

The Apostles and the Early Church The apostles see Jesus on the seashore. Saul of Tarsus becomes a believer and changes his name to Paul. Paul is mysteriously released from prison. #4130

Paul's Ministry and Trials Paul and Silas are imprisoned. Paul appeals to Governor Festus to be tried in Rome. Paul and Luke sail for Rome in a storm and are shipwrecked. #4131

Old Testament:

The Story of Joseph Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery, and he becomes a ruler in the land. His brothers travel to Egypt for food but don't recognize him. Joseph reveals his identity and the family is reunited. #4119

The Story of Moses As a baby, Moses is sent down the Nile in a basket. As a man, Moses is called to save God's people and leads the Israelites across the Red Sea. God gives His people the Ten Commandments. #4120

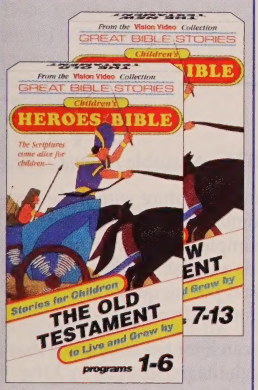
The Story of David David kills Goliath, befriends Jonathan, hides from King Saul in the mountains, and spares Saul's life. #4121

The Story of Elijah Prophet Elijah tells King Ahab that there will be no rain as long as people worship Baal. Elijah's altar to God is set afire and the people worship God. God sends rain. #4122

The Story of Jeremiah Prophet Jeremiah warns the Israelites against their return to worshiping Baal. Jeremiah is arrested and is later rescued after being thrown into a well. #4123

The Story of Esther Esther is chosen to be Queen. She discovers Haman's plot to kill the Jews and goes to the king with the story. Haman is sentenced to the gallows. #4124

$7.95 each / $79.95 set of thirteen tapes #2754 ℗

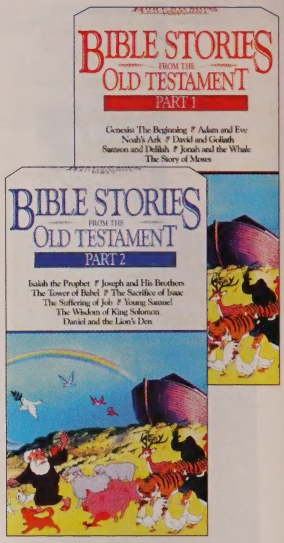


Complete Series on Two Tapes!

Tape One includes the six programs from the Old Testament, #4141, $19.95.

Tape Two includes the seven programs from the New Testament, #4142, $19.95.

Bible Stories from the Old Testament: Part 1 *and* Part 2



The greatest events of the Bible come together in this animated collection that the entire family will enjoy. These captivating, historical accounts demonstrate and communicate the lessons of the Old Testament in an entertaining and incisive format which combines full cartoon animation and exquisite shadow figure animation.

Tape 1 features seven vignettes:

- Genesis: The Beginning
- Adam and Eve
- Noah's Ark
- David and Goliath
- Samson and Delilah
- Jonah and the Whale
- The Story of Moses

Tape 2 features eight Old Testament stories:

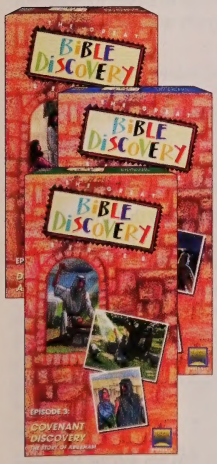
- Joseph & His Brothers
- The Tower of Babel
- The Sacrifice of Isaac
- The Suffering of Job
- Young Samuel
- The Wisdom of Solomon
- Daniel & the Lion's Den
- Isaiah the Prophet

Tape 1, 60 min. #4146 ℗
~~$19.95~~ NOW $14.95

Tape 2, 76 min. #4147 ℗
~~$19.95~~ NOW $14.95

Also available in Spanish **(Tape 1 only)**, #4148

NEW!



The Great Bible Discovery

Available August 1, 1996

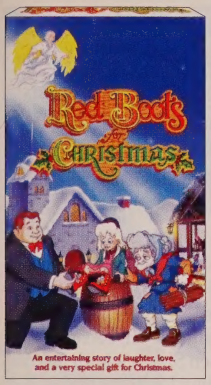
Learning Bible stories becomes an exciting adventure with these wonderful interactive learning tools. They combine live action with storybook style animation and provide simple and direct explanations of Scripture and a final quiz that serves as a learning summary. David Mead is the host, explaining the action and posing questions in a fresh, entertaining way. Recommended for children ages 6-12.

Discovering the Baby King follows the search for the baby Jesus from the prophets of the Old Testament through the persecution by King Herod. #96102

Discovering an Empty Tomb follows Jesus from His triumphant entry into Jerusalem to His glorious resurrection on Easter morning. #96101

Covenant Discovery follows the story of Abraham and his unceasing faith in the Lord. #96103

40 minutes each ℗
$14.95 each



Red Boots for Christmas

NEW!

It's nearing Christmas in a small town in Germany. Hans the shoemaker works into the night, purposely shut away from the holiday festivities around him. Alone in his shop, with no family and few friends, Hans has never learned the true meaning of Christmas. While he mocks the townspeople's merry preparations, Hans is visited by an angel who brings the promise of a very special gift. Hans eagerly awaits the return of this angelic messenger and crafts a gift to give in return—the finest pair of red boots ever made. As the story unfolds, Hans learns the joys of sharing and fellowship, and finally embraces the spirit of Christmas as he does indeed receive the ultimate gift—a gift from God.

30 minutes, #4158 Ⓟ
$14.95
Also available in Spanish, #4164.

Christmas Is

An animated classic about Benji, a disappointed little boy who must play the second shepherd in the school play—again. Disappointment turns to joy when a daydream transports him and his lovable pooch, Waldo, back to the first Christmas. There the second shepherd shares with them the angels' message—that Jesus is born in Bethlehem!

30 minutes, #9144 Ⓟ
$12.95
Also available in Spanish, #99719

The Stableboy's Christmas

This Emmy Award-winning dramatic special finds 10-year-old Tammy traveling back in time to the first Christmas in Bethlehem and witnessing the little stableboy's act of unselfish love when he gives the Christ Child his pet lamb. Tammy then realizes how sharing presents with others is a way of sharing God's love at Christmas.

30 minutes, #5200 Ⓟ
$12.95
Also available in Spanish, #99720

The City That Forgot About Christmas

Benji's grandfather tells the story of a woodcarver who lived in a village that had forgotten about Christmas. When he taught the children of the town about the birth of Jesus, the uncaring village was filled with the joy of Christ and planned a big celebration, despite the plans of the dastardly mayor to ruin them.

30 minutes, #9145 Ⓟ
$12.95 Also available in Spanish, #99721

Mary Had a Little Lamb

In this enchanting children's musical, puppets tell the story of the events of the first Christmas Eve in Bethlehem from the perspective of the animals in the stable. Follow Tiny, the smallest lamb, and his friends as they journey to Bethlehem to witness the birth of Jesus.

28 minutes, #4097 Ⓟ
$14.95

BILLY BUDD COLLECTION

The award-winning children's classics on these two pages from the Billy Budd Video Collection are in high quality clay animation style. The enchanting stories teach valuable lessons in an entertaining way. Children will love to watch them again and again. As a special offer, when you purchase the entire set of seven programs, you will also receive a **free *CLAYMATION* video** which explains the clay animation process in detail. Children and adults alike will enjoy this fascinating and educational program.

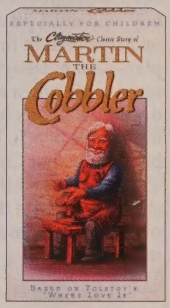
Michael the Visitor

NEW!

This classic clay-animated program, the newest release from the Billy Budd Video Collection, is an adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's tale, *Truths We Live By*. Simon, a poor shoemaker, discovers a young man named Michael alone by the side of the road. He brings the youth home for food and shelter. Michael, although quiet and withdrawn, becomes Simon's invaluable assistant and helps strengthen Simon's faith and shows him God's faithfulness. When it comes time for Michael to leave, he shares with Simon the lessons he has learned through his experience and reveals that he is, in fact, an angel.

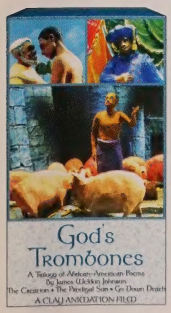
30 minutes, #4172 ℗
$14.95

Martin the Cobbler



Based on Tolstoy's "Where Love Is," this classic story of faith and friendship is presented in clay animation. Martin lives alone, is very sad, and has given up on life. His wife and only son have died, and he is angry at God as well as the neighboring townsfolk who seem oblivious to his painful loneliness. Then a holy man leaves a Bible that needs rebinding. Martin eventually picks it up and reads the story of the rich, young merchant who invited the Lord to be his guest but failed to show him the ordinary signs of hospitality. As the story develops we see how the Lord comes to Martin and how he recognizes the Lord in the most surprising ways. A powerful program with a message of hope.

30 minutes, #4098 ℗
$14.95
Also available in Spanish, #4106



God's Trombones

Here on one video cassette is a trilogy of favorite African-American poems by the renowned James Weldon Johnson. Done in enchanting clay animation, this timeless visualized poetry speaks to all age groups.

The Creation, narrated by James Earl Jones:
And God stepped out on space, And he looked around and said:
I'm lonely— I'll make me a world…

The Prodigal Son, narrated by Dorian Harewood:
Young man—Young man—Your arm's too short to box with God.
But Jesus spake in a parable, and he said: A certain man had two sons…

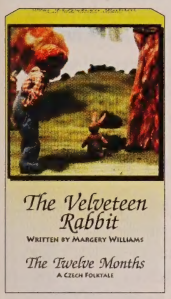
Go Down Death, narrated by Dorian Harewood:
Weep not, weep not, She is not dead; She's resting in the bosom of Jesus.
Heart-broken husband—weep no more…

30 minutes, #4171 ℗
$14.95

The Little Prince

This enchanting French classic, narrated by Cliff Robertson, tells the story of a little prince who lives on a tiny planet. Because of a painful misunderstanding with a beloved rose, the prince leaves his planet in search of "matters of consequence." His travels take him to earth where he makes friends with a fox. It is the fox who teaches him that "it is only with the heart that one sees rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

30 minutes, #4174 ℗
$14.95
Also available in Spanish, #4178



The Velveteen Rabbit

This is the story of a little boy and his toy rabbit who is shunned by all the other toys except the horse. The horse explains how the boy's father had loved him for many years and that was how he became real. When the little boy begins to love the rabbit, it becomes real to the youngster. Also included on the video is "Twelve Months," a Czech version of the Cinderella story which reminds us, in spite of the young heroine's misadventures, that "sharing is always in season."

30 minutes, #4173 ℗
$14.95

The Star Child

Two woodcutters, Gustav and Sven, catch sight of a shooting star plummeting to the ground. They hurry to the spot where it fell and find an infant wrapped in a golden cloak. Sven takes him home to be raised with his other children. Some years later the child becomes a leader to his playmates, who follow him into serious mischief. Then a beggar woman comes along, and his life is changed forever.

30 minutes, #4175 ℗
$14.95

Rip Van Winkle

An adaptation of Washington Irving's classic tale about a farmer who is scorned by the townsfolk for his lack of thrift and hard work, choosing to entertain their children with stories and songs instead. When the farmer drinks a mysterious potion, it puts him to sleep for 20 years. After he wakes up, he finds that the townsfolk appreciate him much more.

30 minutes, #4176 ℗
$14.95
Available in Spanish, #4179

Free Offer!

Purchase all seven Billy Budd programs and you will receive FREE the wonderful *Claymation* video showing the technique of clay animation.

$14.95 each
$79.95 set of seven #4177
Save $25.00!

Easter Is

Benji must make a poster portraying the meaning of Easter. Frustrated for lack of good ideas, he pushes Waldo, his dog and pal, away. When Waldo later becomes lost, Benji's dad tells how the disciples thought they would never see Jesus again. In the end the good news of Easter is shared—that just as Waldo comes back to Benji on Easter morning, Jesus also returned!

25 minutes, #09137 Ⓟ
$12.95
Also available in Spanish, #99718

The Magic Boy's Easter

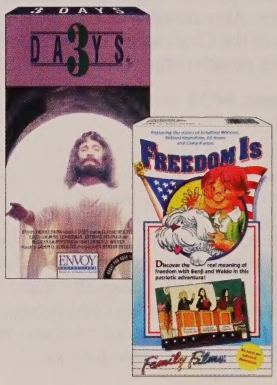
Ten-year-old Josh suffers from a crippling bone disease. Whisked away to Biblical times in a dream, Josh encounters Lazarus and Joanna—both healed by Jesus. His dream ends as Christ, on His way to the cross, takes the time to heal Josh. Upon awakening from his dream, Josh consents to surgery, knowing Jesus will never leave him!

30 minutes, #5204 Ⓟ
$12.95
Also available in Spanish, #99725

Three Days

From the first Good Friday to the first Easter, Jesus' disciples lived in tortured confusion. *Three Days* is a dramatic representation of events that may have transpired among the disciples during the time that tested their faith to the utmost, ending with the victorious resurrection.

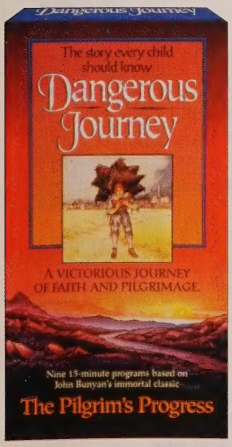
28 minutes, #75205 Ⓟ
~~$19.95~~ $14.95
Also available in Spanish, #99722



Freedom Is

Benji and his dog, Waldo, dream they are back in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. They meet Jeremiah Goodheart, who's been trusted to deliver a letter to John Adams at the Second Continental Congress. When Jeremiah loses the letter, Benji helps to find it and gets to ask Thomas Jefferson about true freedom, learning how to keep the spirit of freedom alive.

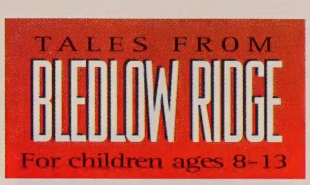
30 minutes, #9404 Ⓟ
$12.95



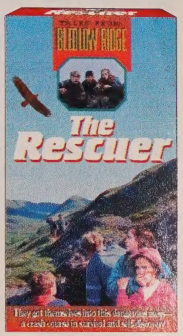
Dangerous Journey

Every child should be introduced to Bunyan's classic—*The Pilgrim's Progress*. *Dangerous Journey* is that beautifully illustrated adventure story that shows children the basic themes of the Christian life and pilgrimage. The colorful characters and gripping situations make a vital and lasting impression. Use at home and in Bible school, children's church, and Sunday school classes. Also includes a booklet that gives the Biblical sources for each of the stories and incidents taken from Bunyan's original notes. For ages six and up. Includes nine 15-minute episodes on one tape and Leader's Guide/Scripture Reference Guide.

135 minutes, #4103 Ⓟ
$19.95

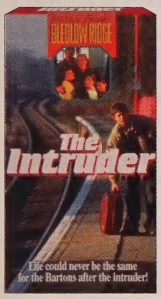


The Rescuer



In this second episode from our new youth adventure series, Rachel (14), Matt (10), and Cassie (9) are drawn into a dangerous situation when Rachel's deep passion for nature takes them to the breathtakingly beautiful English Lake District. Rachel, "The Rescuer," is determined to bring to justice the culprits who are stealing the eagles' eggs, but when Cassie becomes trapped on a treacherous cliff, Rachel is faced with a decision that will change her life forever. Her faith is strengthened when she learns to put others' needs above her own.

58 minutes, #4165 Ⓟ
$19.95



The Intruder

The Bartons' comfortable suburban existence is thrown into chaos when cousin Kevin comes to live with them and everyone's patience and character are tested to the limit by the adventure that unfolds. The young people discover stolen goods stored in a nearby abandoned house. They have to deal with the gang that hid them, the police who want them, and their own consciences. Through it all everyone endures difficulties and grows in ways they never expected. This film helps young people learn to take responsibility for their actions and see the power of forgiveness.

58 minutes, #4104 Ⓟ
$19.95

Both for $34.95! #99768

The First Valentine

Celebrate the love of Christ through the story of the origin of Valentine's Day. In this adventure of imagination, young Tess, a shy girl of 13, discovers a new meaning for love on Valentine's Day. Through a very special book, she meets the third century martyr Valentine and his Christian friends. They show her what it means to love others as Jesus loves us, and to receive that love in return.

24 minutes, #5212 Ⓟ
$14.95
Also available in Spanish, #99724

Nikolai

Nikolai is a Soviet teenager in the early 1980s who has a painful choice to make. If he compromises his faith and turns in evidence on his father's ministry, his education will be guaranteed. But Nikolai is a believer who is resolved to put Christ first. His agonizing dilemma will cause all who watch to take a new and deeper look at the meaning and cost of Christian commitment.

35 minutes, #4024 Ⓟ
$14.95

Dear Distant Dad

In this emotionally charged program, teenagers open up their hearts with a rare and raw honesty to reveal the devastating hurt they feel inside when they cannot lovingly connect with their dads. Teens will find that they are not alone and will better understand what some of their peers are going through. Great for youth, dads, or family programs. Includes Leader's Guide.

23 minutes, #4076 Ⓟ
$19.95

Doorways to Danger

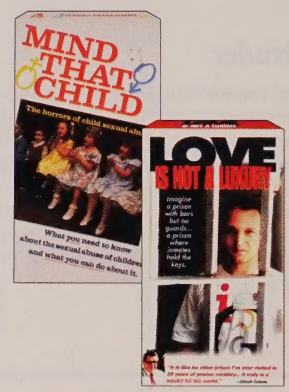
Dabbling in the occult is widespread and often thought of as harmless entertainment. But this video shows why it is dangerous to get involved with spiritism, fortune telling, witchcraft, magic, and Satanism. The program introduces the real life stories of those who have been involved in these activities and shows the way out based upon a Biblical perspective. Study Guide included.

24 minutes, #4022 Ⓟ
$19.95

Mind That Child

This program shows how to recognize symptoms of and provide healing for a child who has been sexually mistreated and frightened into silence. Practical guidance is given on how to prevent child sexual abuse. Recommended particularly for every parent and grandparent. Child abuse is a disturbing widespread problem. This program offers practical advice on what to do about it.

30 minutes, #4014 Ⓟ
$14.95



Love is not a Luxury

Imagine a prison with bars but no guards...a prison where inmates hold the keys. This Brazilian prison accommodates some of the most notorious inmates; yet peace and good order now prevail. The film, shot by two of the inmates, examines the day-to-day running of the prison and explores the personal development of two prisoners—with respective sentences of 70 and 114 years—who hold substantial responsibility for the harmony and security of the prison.

50 minutes, #4151 Ⓟ
$19.95

OLYMPIC SPECIALS

Going for God and the Gold

Is God a sports fan? The Olympics provide the backdrop and catalyst for exploring the larger questions related to religion and sports. What difference, if any, do prayer and faith make in an athlete's life and performance? Featured are decathlon bronze medal winner Dave Johnson, Madeline Manning Mims, and Bob Richards. An excellent discussion starter.

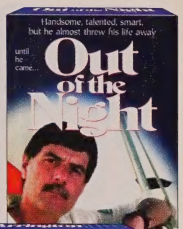
30 minutes, #4074 Ⓟ
~~$14.95~~ NOW $12.95

Chariots of Fire

This Academy Award winner (Best Picture) tells the inspiring true story of two runners of the United Kingdom, Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell. Contrasting the spiritual motives of one man versus the more selfish goals of the other, their fierce, personal competition ends up uniting them in a great victory in the 1924 Olympics. Starring Ian Charleson and Ben Cross.

124 minutes, #0295
~~$19.95~~ LIMITED TIME SALE PRICE! $14.95

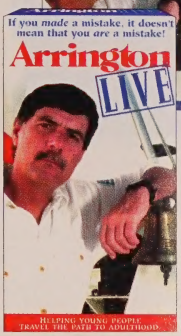
Out of the Night



This dramatic presentation of Stephen Arrington's life will challenge youth to consider the consequences of their choices. Stephen never intended to trash his life. Discharged from the Navy for selling marijuana, he became a pilot for a multimillionaire friend—who turned out to be a major cocaine transporter. While co-piloting a massive shipment from Colombia, he knew he wanted out, but it was too late. He was arrested, charged as co-defendant in the famous John DeLorean drug trial, pled guilty, and received a five-year sentence. In prison his life was transformed when he searched and found the Lord, resulting in a commitment to help young people avoid the same mistakes. This drama won the Gold Award at the Houston Film Festival.

45 minutes, #4168 ℗
$19.95

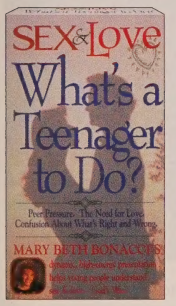
Arrington Live



This companion program to *Out of the Night* introduces Stephen Arrington in person. He candidly shares how his choices landed him in a federal prison out of a famous international drug case. He engages an audience of bright and honest young people, drawing them into bluntly real conversations about the life-shaping decisions they are making each day. He also expresses his confidence in the power of forgiveness and of starting anew. This video stimulates rich discussions in classes and youth groups, within families and in peer counseling settings.

45 minutes, #4170 ℗
$19.95

Both for $29.95!
#99747



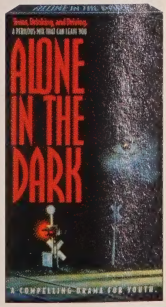
Sex & Love: What's a Teenager to Do?

Finally, a program that really connects with teens about sex! In this dynamic, high-energy presentation, Mary Beth Bonacci talks to teens about the "do's" of chastity. Using Scripture and humorous, down-to-earth examples from teenage life, she shows that chastity is more than just abstinence—chastity is active. It's about loving in a relationship the way that God intended. Mary Beth Bonacci challenges teens all over the world every year, offering practical suggestions to help young people make responsible choices in their relationships.

60 minutes, #4145 ℗
$19.95

Also available in a public school edition, #4181.

Alone in the Dark



A gripping eye-opener for teenagers! Giving in to peer pressure—and against her parents' wishes—seventeen-year-old Tasha Grant goes to a party and gets drunk. When Tasha takes the wheel, the alcohol has made her so sleepy she is unaware of the life-threatening danger ahead. Through the help of a concerned friend, Tasha comes to see the potentially devastating choices she's made. This suspenseful half-hour drama for youth depicts the lethal dangers of alcohol and shows how our actions have consequences. Includes Biblical study guide.

27 minutes, #4138 ℗
$19.95

Go For It!

Many Christians struggle with personal evangelism, sharing the message of Jesus Christ with others. One reason for this is that religion is generally considered a private affair in our society. To talk to others about your faith seems a little pushy and in bad taste. But Christian personal evangelism is not trying to convert others to your particular denomination, but to bring the good news about the love of God, forgiveness in Jesus, and the offer of a new life.

For many sincere Christians this is a difficult and awkward task. They feel guilty about withholding their witness. They know what Jesus can do in the lives of those they deeply care about, but they just don't know how to get started and what to say. *Go For It!* can help. The series shows why sharing Christ is important and provides Bible-based advice on how to witness. Each of the four sessions was filmed live and features Ian Knox, a British evangelist. Designed for either group or personal study. Includes comprehensive Study Guide with reproducible student worksheets.

Four segments, approximately 30 minutes each, #4085 ℗
~~$39.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $29.95

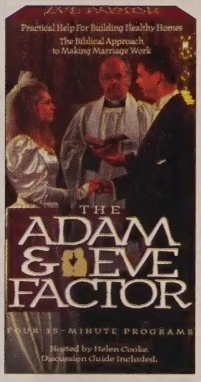
The Adam & Eve Factor

So who needs another series on marriage? What's different here? First, this series is presented by a woman. And it gets to the heart of what the Bible shows us about marriage and how to make it work. How has our understanding of marriage gone wrong? What causes marital discord? How can couples rebuild love and trust? These and many other issues are dealt with insightfully and practically from a scriptural perspective.

The programs will benefit couples considering marriage, those facing marital difficulties or those who simply want to make a good marriage better. The series is recommended for personal use, groups, retreats and counseling. Interviews, drama, group interaction, music and expert commentary address common and pressing problems from a Biblical perspective. Produced in England, *The Adam & Eve Factor* sets forth an international perspective on what makes for a successful marriage everywhere.

Host for the series is Helen Cooke, president of Christian Viewpoint. She is a popular international speaker, is married to a film producer and mother of three grown children.

Four 35-minute segments with Leader's/Study Guide, #4096 ℗
~~$39.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $29.95

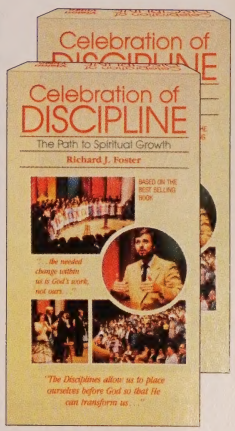


The four programs:

1. The Commitment Factor
2. The Conflict Factor
3. The Intimacy Factor
4. The Servant Factor

NOTE: You will find many other study series in this catalog listed under other categories. For example, see pages 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22 for series with print supplements for leader and students.

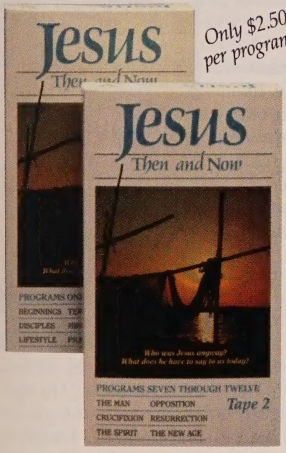
Celebration of Discipline



Over the centuries devout believers have sought for the best ways to bring their lives and thoughts closer to God. This wisdom is available for believers today and is effectively set forth in this four-part series. Richard Foster points the way to a new level of spiritual maturity through a rediscovery of the time-honored disciplines of Christian devotion. Use this series in small or large groups to spark a whole new interest in Bible study, prayer, and meditation. Dr. Foster lectures throughout the world on the "spiritual life." He has written *Freedom of Simplicity* and the best-selling *Celebration of Discipline*, on which this series is based. Includes Study Guide.

Program 1: The Door to Liberation
Program 2: The Inward Disciplines
Program 3: The Outward Disciplines
Program 4: The Corporate Disciplines

Four 45-minute programs on two tapes, #4039 ℗
~~$49.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $39.95



Only $2.50 per program!

Jesus Then and Now

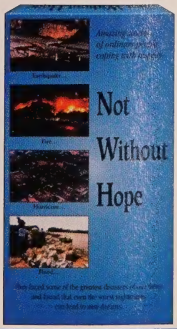
Now at a new, low price, this is one of our best-loved series over the past ten years. A powerful introduction of who Jesus is and what He has to do with us today. The late British evangelist and author David Watson hosted this series enthusiastically received across denominational lines. *Jesus Then and Now* uses a variety of techniques including documentary, drama, interviews, and humor to get to the heart of New Testament teachings about Jesus and His unavoidable call to us today. Includes Study Guide.

Topics of the programs:

1. Beginnings
2. Temptation
3. Disciples
4. Miracles
5. Lifestyle
6. Prayer
7. The Man
8. Opposition
9. Crucifixion
10. Resurrection
11. The Spirit
12. The New Age

Twelve 20-minute programs on two tapes, #4034 ℗
~~$39.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $29.95

Not Without Hope



Not Without Hope is the story that picks up after disastrous events fade from the public eye—tragedies such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, fires and murders. It follows the lives of people who picked up their broken lives but who, with God's grace, were able to move forward—not in bitterness but in hope. People who endured danger and devastating losses candidly relate how they coped and found strength and a new perspective so that they were able to transcend tragedy. Includes Leader's Guide.

45 minutes, #4115 ℗
~~$29.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $19.95

Also available in a regular version without Leader's Guide for $14.95, #4114

Handel's Messiah

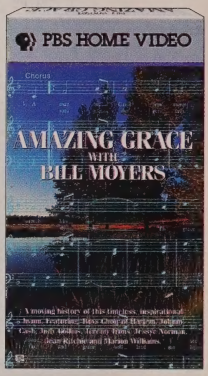
This performance of the best-loved of all oratorios is played on original instruments. The renowned conductor Roger Norrington—a leading proponent of authentic performance practices—leads the London Baroque Players and the Cardiff Polyphonic Choir in this concert. Handel wrote the Messiah for a combination of wind and strings, not the large orchestras of the late 19th and 20th centuries. In this program, the work is performed to the original scoring. This Messiah rendition is a performance which truly increases our understanding of this magnificent work.

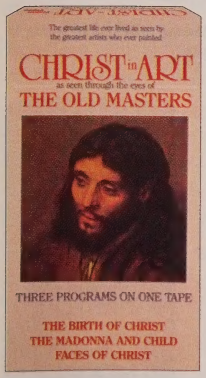
113 minutes, #7327
$19.95

Amazing Grace with Bill Moyers

Across time, oceans and cultures, "Amazing Grace" has endured as one of the most popular pieces of music in the English language. Its universal appeal inspired the acclaimed journalist Bill Moyers to tell the story of this song through the people who have sung it. Featured are The Boys Choir of Harlem, Johnny Cash, Judy Collins, and many others, who reveal the power the song has had in their personal lives. Complementing the artists' comments is the superb British actor Jeremy Irons, speaking from the writings of the 18th century Englishman who composed the song.

80 minutes, #04898
~~$24.95~~ SPECIAL PRICE! $19.95





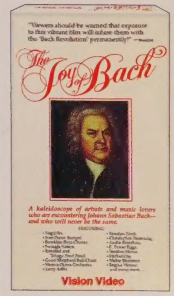
Christ in Art: The Old Masters

Even those with no background in art will be caught up in the wonder and beauty of the greatest art masterpieces of the ages devoted to Christ. Included are the works of da Vinci, Botticelli, Michelangelo, Raphael, Rembrandt, Fra Angelico, and many others. This video consists of three 15-minute programs that interpret great works of art: *The Birth of Christ*, *The Madonna and Child*, and *Faces of Christ*.

45 minutes, #4023 ℗
$19.95

Special quantity discounts available. See order form for details.

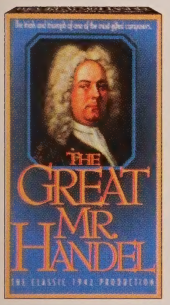
The Joy of Bach



Brighten your life and the lives of those around you with this wonderful, lively kaleidoscopic presentation of the great composer's music. This delightful program includes an impressive assortment of period and contemporary performances given by a wide variety of celebrated musicians and interspersed with dramatic biographical sketches from Bach's life played by Brian Blessed of Masterpiece Theatre fame. This program shows how Bach's music is still alive and as popular as ever.

60 minutes, #4005 ℗
$14.95

Also available in Spanish, #8148

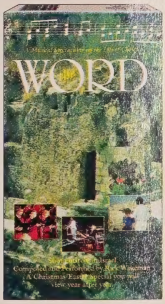


The Great Mr. Handel

Produced in 1942 by Lord Rank's G.H.W. Productions Ltd., this was the first color film shot with "character lighting" instead of the flat overall lighting previously used. This story deals with the later stages of Handel's life, leading up to the composing of his masterpiece, "Messiah." During his early years in London, Handel enjoyed the King's patronage and people flocked to the theaters to see his operas. But soon fashionable society turned against him. Plagued by financial worries and ill health and abandoned by almost everyone except those closest to him, Handel shut himself away and worked day and night on "Messiah." Its performance at the royal Opera House in 1743 resulted in a standing ovation led by the King.

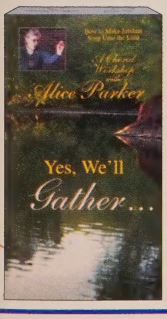
100 minutes, #4090 ℗
$19.95

The Word



A Gospel musical spectacular composed and performed by Rick Wakeman and shot entirely in Israel. Set in the beautiful and ancient amphitheater at Caesarea, as well as other locations throughout Israel, *The Word* is a contemporary musical interpretation of the four Gospels and the life of Christ with a present-day meaning for all. The basic message of Christ is set forth in an enthralling contemporary spectacular of words, music, and stunning visual imagery. This program provides a profound Christmas and/or Easter experience. Also features actor Robert Powell.

70 minutes, #4003 ℗
$19.95



Yes, We'll Gather

In this lively, joyful video, noted arranger, composer and conductor, Alice Parker, shows us how to noticeably enrich our singing. A master teacher, Parker demonstrates how to elicit new depth, vibrancy and intention in a repertory of hymns—classic, familiar and folk. This fine-tuned, song-saturated program will benefit any church. Both choirs and choir directors will find this video indispensable, and church congregations will be encouraged by this musical and spiritual feast to "sing with the spirit and with understanding." Includes Sing-Along Guide.

50 minutes, #4089 ℗
$24.95

Quo Vadis

Robert Taylor stars as a heroic military commander under the mad Emperor Nero who falls in love with a beautiful Christian woman (Deborah Kerr). Amidst many visual splendors and a cast of thousands, the film focuses on the struggle between the early Christians and Nero, and the spiritual journey of Taylor's character that brings him in direct conflict with Nero's might.

Two tapes, 171 min, #0263
~~$29.95~~ $24.95
NEW LOW PRICE!

The Robe

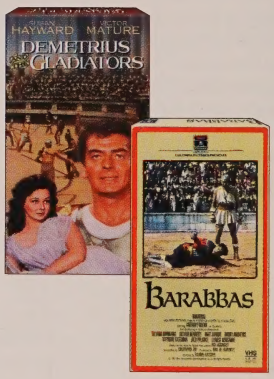
Marcellus Gallio, a Roman centurion, carries out Pilate's crucifixion order. He wins Christ's robe in a dice game. Then, thinking he's been bewitched by the robe, he leaves it with his Christian slave, Demetrius. Haunted by his own guilt, he sets out to find Demetrius and the robe. On his journey, he finds faith in Christ, with the help of the woman he loves.

135 minutes, #1022
$19.95

Demetrius and the Gladiators

In this action-packed sequel to *The Robe*, Demetrius is entrusted with the robe by Peter. But his faith is tested when he turns his back on God, enters the arena, and becomes a famous gladiator in Rome. A moving epic film with a strong supporting cast, this film is filled with vivid re-creations of Bible times. Starring Victor Mature and Susan Hayward.

101 minutes, #1178
$19.95



Barabbas

This fictionalized story of Barabbas is based on the New Testament passage in which the people choose to free Barabbas rather than Jesus, an event that haunts Barabbas the rest of his life. After watching Rachel being stoned to death for her belief in Jesus, Barabbas returns to his life of thievery. It is only at the end, when he faces crucifixion, that he discovers genuine faith.

134 minutes, #10726
$19.95

Waiting for the Wind

A story of family love, loyalty and boundless faith. Walter is faced with a terminal illness while his son-in-law is struggling with grief over the death of his young wife and his disbelief in God. In an unforgettable scene, Walter's rugged faith is conveyed to his adoring grandson. Starring Robert Mitchum, Rhonda Fleming, and Jameson Parker.

30 minutes, #5225 Ⓟ
$14.95
Also available in Spanish, #99723

The Visitor

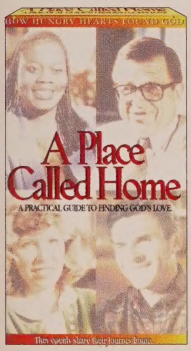
Based on Tolstoy's classic story, "Where Love Is," *The Visitor* is the story of a cobbler named Martin and his struggle with personal tragedy. Feeling abandoned by the Lord, he is surprised by a friend from the past who assures him that an important visitor is coming. Because Martin thinks the visitor will be the Lord, he finds new strength and faith. An inspirational experience for anyone feeling lonely and abandoned.

33 minutes, #4019 Ⓟ
$14.95

In the Company of Angels

Here are the profound Biblical truths about the presence and actions of God's glorious creatures of light. An illuminating experience! The timeless, universally appealing subject of Angels is explored in this beautiful in-depth and authoritative program. Fascinating and enlightening information from some of America's leading theologians and scholars is gracefully interwoven with breathtaking art and a wonderful music score. See how the Bible, science and philosophy explain the existence of angels.

55 minutes, #0575 Ⓟ
$19.95

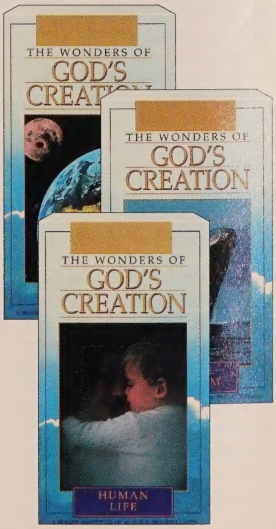


A Place Called Home

We are all on a journey. But how many know where they are going? In this fast-paced program, we follow the quest with well-known figures such as Noel Paul Stookey and Charles Colson and others, including a woman dealing with her past abortions, an AIDS victim, a Vietnam veteran hurting inside, and a woman transcending inner city hopelessness. They pour out their hearts as we join them on their spiritual journeys. Each discovers that the mercy of God in the person of Jesus is the way from empty existence to fullness of life and love. An emotionally moving program that also challenges the mind with the basic questions we all face in life. This program is an excellent evangelistic resource for sharing the Gospel with others.

59 minutes, #4060 Ⓟ
$14.95

The Wonders of God's Creation



This three-video collection presents the beauty, wonder and miracle of God's creation. It transports the viewer from the farthest reaches of the universe to the smallest cell on the tip of the human finger to reveal the Creator's extraordinary design and plan. Combining spectacular photography with decades of research, the series unlocks many of the mysteries of the universe. With each new discovery revealed, the viewer gains an even deeper appreciation for God's infinite power, wisdom and everlasting love. Includes Scripture reference guide.

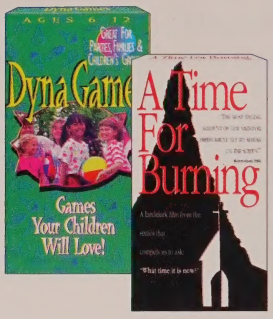
Part I: Planet Earth: Sanctuary of Life
Part II: The Animal Kingdom: Great Are Thy Works
Part III: Human Life: The Crown of Creation

Three videos, 193 minutes total, #9292
~~$59.95~~ NEW LOW PRICE! $44.95

Dyna Games

Here's how to keep the children involved! Twelve great games for children ages 6-12 that cost next to nothing for materials and can be played almost anywhere. Every game is demonstrated step by step and can be used for parties, families, children's groups, etc. Includes Leader's Guide with instruction for each game.

28 minutes, #4088, $14.95 ℗



A Time for Burning

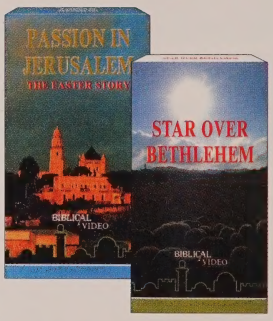
This 1966 award-winning documentary explores a white, middle class church that struggled to reach out to the "Negroes" in their city. Filmed as it actually happened, it is a valuable case study of how conscientious Christians tried to cope in a "nation divided" by race a generation ago. Today it provides a historic landmark for us to consider how much has changed and how much remains the same.

58 minutes, B&W #4143, $19.95 ℗

Passion in Jerusalem

A visit to the very places where the climactic events in Jesus' life took place! The Easter story and the great events which led to the crucifixion and the resurrection are dramatically presented with passion and joy. This production is filmed on all the traditional locations associated with the Holy Week.

30 minutes, #4139, $14.95 ℗



Star Over Bethlehem

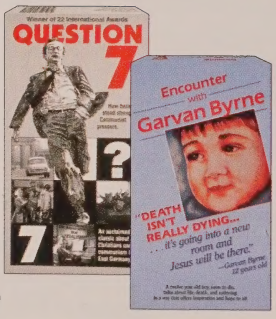
Experience the wonders of Christmas more fully. From the Annunciation in Nazareth to the Nativity in Bethlehem, the story is full of insight and joy. The film includes ancient traditions, Biblical sites and ancient chants. Filmed on the actual locations in the Holy Land, this is the complete Christmas story.

30 minutes, #4140, $14.95 ℗

Question 7

This classic from "cold war" communist East Germany is the full-length drama about fifteen-year-old Peter, a Christian behind the Iron Curtain. He is forced to decide between what is "correct" and what is true as he struggles to remain loyal to the Gospel. An older film with new significance since the reunification of Germany.

107 minutes, B&W, #4004, $19.95 ℗
Also available in Spanish, #4058



Encounter with Garvan Byrne

The wisdom and insight of Garvan Byrne went far beyond his years. He was a twelve-year-old trapped in the body of a five-year-old with the certain prospect of an early death. He endured intense pain but walked close to God and transformed the morbidity of death into a joyful passage. The faith of this child speaks powerfully to all age groups.

30 minutes, #4000, $14.95 ℗

Nothing is Wasted! Adrian Plass

Adrian Plass is a British writer who became a committed Christian but didn't lose his sense of humor. Plass relives his pilgrimage of alienation from his father, expulsion from school, struggle to find his identity, debilitating depression to a new life in God's peace. A great discussion starter.

30 minutes, #4056, $19.95 ℗

Blind Shepherd of the Hills

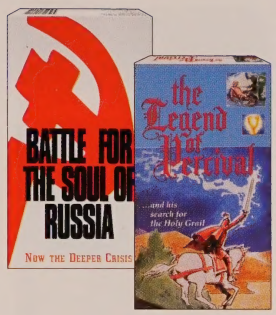
See how love for God and His mission can enable a person to overcome obstacles— even as great as blindness. There are few dark days for the sightless pastor of the Hillsville Lutheran Church of Carroll County, Virginia. See how Duane Steele uses his God-given pastoral and musical talents to lift the hearts of people in his congregation and community.

30 minutes, #4062, $14.95 ℗

Battle for the Soul of Russia

Presents an insightful firsthand look at the tremendous religious resurgence now under way in the former Soviet state and focuses on the role of some 350 Western missionary groups spending millions of dollars to develop new followings. The new religious freedom opened the doors to a wave of diverse groups that flooded in to meet the spiritual hunger of the Russian people.

51 minutes, #4075, $14.95 ℗



The Legend of Percival

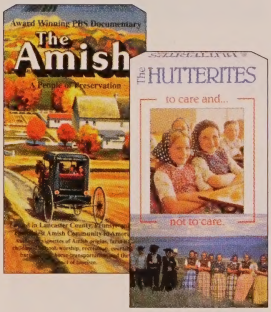
This is a story that goes back to the medieval world of King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table. Percival's search for the Holy Grail depicts the perennial human quest to find personal identity and pursue life goals. Excellent for exploring basic life questions with youth. Illustrated story with discussion guide.

30 minutes, #4087, $19.95 ℗

The Amish: A People of Preservation

In this intimate documentary, historian-producer John Ruth takes us inside the world of the Amish. Features authentic vignettes of Amish origins, farm life, childhood, school, worship, recreation, barn-raising, horse transportation, and the impact of tourism.

54 minutes, #4077, $19.95 ℗



The Hutterites: To Care and Not to Care

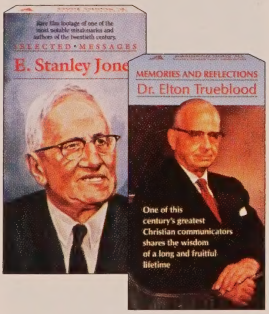
Spiritual cousins of the Mennonites and Amish, the Hutterites live simply with austerity. By a way of life that is supremely communal rather than individualistic, the Hutterites have rid themselves of poverty, homicide and anxiety about the future.

58 minutes, #4078, $19.95 ℗

E. Stanley Jones

Fortunately, films have been found of some of his best messages delivered in the 1960s. E. Stanley Jones, noted Methodist evangelist-missionary, spoke on "Ministry," "The Self," "Christianity and the World Situation," and "Jesus is Lord." What is most amazing is how these messages so directly address our situation today, even though delivered decades ago.

42 minutes, #4001, $19.95 ℗



Elton Trueblood

In his ninetieth year, from his retirement residence in Worcester, Pennsylvania, the late Dr. Trueblood reflected on his long and fruitful life. He spoke candidly of the conditions and needs in the Church today, and the keys to faithful Christian living. Also included are excerpts from two of his last public messages.

40 minutes, #4002, $19.95 ℗

The Harvest

A drama that points the way to family love and unity. At 42, Quentin Overby is a failure. Stress and long hours have put a terrible strain on his marriage and a growing distance in his relationship with his young son. A family vacation on a farm, owned by a wise grandfather, brings the entire situation to a head.

60 minutes, #4029, $14.95 ℗

The Third Cry

Mike and Sherry's future together looked bright until their first child was born with Cystic Fibrosis, a disease that would almost certainly kill the child in her teens. But they find the strength not only to accept a second child with the same disease but also to adopt a third. This drama speaks powerfully to all those facing overwhelming difficulties.

72 minutes, #4030, $14.95 ℗

King

While we find some objectionable elements in this dramatic feature, overall we feel this is a valuable overview of the life of Dr. King. In this riveting depiction of the tears, violence, and bloodshed of the Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King Jr. (Paul Winfield) plunges his cause deep into the American conscience, while his courageous wife, Coretta Scott King (Cicely Tyson), patiently shares her husband with history. *King* powerfully traces each decisive event of the Movement. Parental discretion advised.

Three tapes, 254 minutes, #4667
~~$59.98~~ SPECIAL PRICE! $39.95

The Agony and the Ecstasy

A powerful, historical drama set in the early 16th century. When Pope Julius II (Rex Harrison) commissions Michelangelo (Charlton Heston) to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the project becomes a battle of wills fueled by artistic and temperamental differences. A rich and moving dramatization.

139 minutes, #2277
$19.95

The Keys of the Kingdom

Gregory Peck is a dedicated priest who accepts the daunting challenge of resurrecting a destroyed mission in rural China. His generosity and courage win the villagers' faith and respect. A moving story of one man's effort to serve God without thought of personal gain.

B&W, 137 minutes, #2337
$19.95

Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson stars as himself in this biography, which chronicles his ascent from playing in an all-black league to becoming the first black American to play major league baseball. His obvious talent and athletic prowess were matched only by his remarkable grace, courage and self-control.

76 minutes, B&W, #2198
$19.95

The Judas Project

What would it be like if Jesus had come TODAY instead of 2,000 years ago? This intriguing drama explores the possibility. Jesse, the hero of this extraordinary film, battles corrupt politicians and pseudo religious figures in a fight to save the world. Finally through the betrayal of his own disciple, Jude, he is destroyed. The story culminates in one of the most mesmerizing crucifixion scenes ever filmed. Parental discretion advised. A great discussion starter and evangelistic tool.

98 minutes, #0130
$19.95

To Kill a Mockingbird

In a Southern depression town, a white woman accuses a black man of rape. Though he is innocent, the outcome of his trial is such a foregone conclusion that no lawyer will defend him—except the town's most distinguished citizen (Gregory Peck). His compassionate defense costs him many friendships but earns him the respect and admiration of his two motherless children.

131 minutes, B&W, #0253
$19.95

Sergeant York

He was a pacifist turned patriot, a backwoods farm boy and ace Turkey Shoot champ, who decided there are some things worth fighting for. Alvin C. York captured 132 German soldiers during the savage fighting in Argonne. The renowned hero of World War I is brilliantly portrayed by Gary Cooper and costars Walter Brennan.

B&W, 137 minutes, #0135
$19.95

Stars in My Crown

In 1865, just after the end of the Civil War, Josiah Gray arrives in town. Establishing himself as a preacher, he delivers the Word of God with a Bible in one hand and a six-shooter in the other—and he'll use either one to properly civilize this lawless town! His faith and courage are put to the test when the town bully rounds up a group of hooded men to steal the land of a defenseless man. This uniquely inspirational and action-packed western co-stars Amanda Blake and Dean Stockwell.

B&W, 89 minutes, #04626
$19.95

I'd Climb the Highest Mountain

City girl Mary Thompson (Susan Hayward) doesn't know much about being a minister's wife when she comes to Georgia's hill country with her new husband (William Lundigan). Determined to learn, Mary stands by her husband's side as he watches over his congregation, sharing good times, hard times, even cruel tragedy which tests her faith.

88 minutes, #8591
$19.95

Babette's Feast

Babette, a great French chef, lives an anonymous life among a pious congregation on the desolate coast of Denmark. One day Babette wins a lot of money and spends it all, creating the most memorable meal ever consumed for the simple religious villagers. The result is a visual feast and wonderful exploration of life and relationships. Two versions available: dubbed (#9994), subtitled (#7593)

102 minutes
$19.95

Les Miserables

Richard Jordan as Jean Valjean is sent to prison for stealing a loaf of bread but escapes while saving another inmate's life. Anthony Perkins as Inspector Javert pursues him. Valjean came out of prison a hardened criminal, until he is shown unconditional love. Then the struggle begins—Valjean's efforts to do good and Javert's to rearrest him. This classic shows that love and forgiveness can conquer evil. Includes Discussion Guide.

123 minutes, #0131
$19.95

Uncle Tom's Cabin

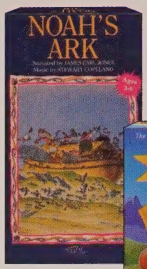
Harriet Beecher Stowe's timeless tale about slavery and redemption in the pre-Civil War South comes to life in this vivid and dramatic adaptation. An all-star cast illuminates the classic characters in their courageous struggle for freedom amidst boundless cruelty. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is an enlightening and memorable experience that shows how love can conquer hate. Includes Discussion Guide.

108 minutes, #5153
$19.95

Noah's Ark

James Earl Jones narrates this award-winning, beautifully animated film that tells the story of Noah's heroic mission to rescue creatures great and small. The moving drama and heartwarming emotion are brilliantly captured in this breathtaking adaptation of Peter Spier's acclaimed children's book, perfectly complemented by a dynamic music score from Stewart Copeland. Ages 3-10.

27 minutes, #59129
~~$14.95~~ $12.95



The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

This original *animated* version of C. S. Lewis' classic is an Emmy Award-winning program and a delightful visual telling of the Lewis allegory. The death and resurrection of Aslan the Lion invite comparison with the Biblical accounts of Christ's death and resurrection. From Children's Television Workshop.

95 minutes, #0185
$12.95

Charlotte's Web

One of the all-time great children's stories is brought to brilliant animated life by Hanna-Barbera. E.B. White's poignant barnyard tale of a shrewd spider who becomes the leader of a troop of farm animals is described by author White as a tale of "friendship and salvation, a story of the miracles of birth, friendship." Features the voice of Debbie Reynolds.

94 minutes, #0164
$14.95

Pollyanna

Orphaned and alone, little Pollyanna Whittier goes to live with her stern Aunt Polly. Ever cheerful, enduring every hardship with a smile, Pollyanna soon begins to melt Aunt Polly's icy disposition. But when tragedy strikes, the hurt is so big, even Pollyanna may not be happy again! (This BBC classic is not to be confused with the Disney title.)

155 minutes, #94788
~~$24.95~~ $19.95
SPECIAL PRICE!

The Hobbit

J.R.R. Tolkien's timeless story is brought to life in animation that is great entertainment for the whole family. Embark on an epic journey with the hobbit Bilbo Baggins into the enchanted world called Middle Earth in search of the Ring of Power. The film is enhanced by the outstanding voices of John Huston, Orson Bean, and Richard Boone.

78 minutes, #0618
$14.95

Also available is *Tolkien's Trilogy*, 3 tapes, #9915, $39.95.

Sarah, Plain and Tall

An inspiring family-oriented heartwarmer from Hallmark Hall of Fame. In 1910 New Englander Sarah Wheaton answers an ad for a mail-order bride placed by Kansas farmer Jacob Witting, a widower rearing two children. As the days pass, this lonely, motherless family opens their hearts to Sarah and comes to terms with their painful past.

98 minutes, #6883
$14.95

Also available is the sequel, *Skylark*, 98 minutes, #0152, $14.95

Where the Red Fern Grows

Based on the best-selling book, this film is a heartwarming classic. Combining adventure, suspense, tragedy and faith, it tells the story of a boy and his dogs growing up in the majestic Smoky Mountains, and the love between parents, children and grandfather. A movie filled with God's grandeur.

100 minutes, #1012
$14.95

Where the Red Fern Grows, Part 2

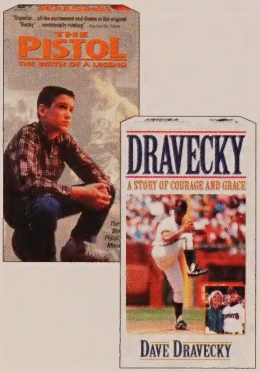
In this continuation of the classic novel, Billy returns from WWII to his grandfather's home and tries to readjust to civilian life. But the killing he witnessed in the war, along with the loss of a leg, have embittered him. It is through the gift of two puppies and a new friend that Billy rediscovers himself.

92 minutes, #9997
$14.95

The Pistol

This biographical drama, focusing on Pete Maravich's freshman year in high school, is the uplifting and inspirational story of how one father's love and support had a profound impact on his son's life. It resulted in Pete's becoming the youngest inductee into the Basketball Hall of Fame. Pete showed how family, hard work, and a whole lot of heart could make anything possible.

104 minutes, #0026
$19.95



Dravecky

The doctors said Dave Dravecky would never pitch again. But nine months after the removal of a malignancy in his left arm, Dravecky returned to the mound to pitch eight electrifying innings, leading the San Francisco Giants to victory. In this chronicle of faith, Dave and his wife, Jan, exemplify what it means to trust God when the bottom drops out.

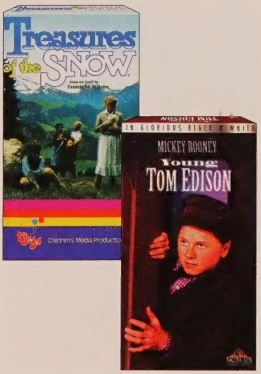
62 minutes, #24599
#19.95

Treasures of the Snow

Lucien, a lonely, frightened boy of 13, finds himself an outcast from his family and friends, especially the very hostile neighbor, Annette. Befriending an old woodcarver, Lucien begins to have hope, but learns that a price has to be paid for forgiveness. This touching tale of forgiveness and reconciliation is filmed in the breathtaking Swiss Alps.

110 minutes, #9947
$24.95

Also available is *Tanglewood's Secret*, 80 minutes, #9946, $19.95. Buy both for $39.95, #9904.



Young Tom Edison

Mickey Rooney stars as the young boy who grew up to become America's greatest inventor in this heartwarming, humorous biographical drama based on his early life. Young Tom is barred from school after he nearly burns down the schoolhouse, but finally earns the town's respect when his ingenuity helps to prevent a tragedy.

82 minutes, B&W, #9991
$19.95

Also available is *Edison: The Man*, 107 minutes, B&W, #0913, $19.95.

Blossoms in the Dust

Greer Garson stars in this inspiring, true story of Edna Gladney, who devoted her life to finding homes for unwanted infants. Tragedy touches Edna twice. Her only son dies in an accident, and her beloved foster sister commits suicide. Edna fights back from heartbreak and establishes the Texas Children's Home and Aid Society, placing 2,000 children with adoptive families.

95 minutes, #80327
$19.95

The Hiding Place

In wartime Holland, Corrie ten Boom and her family of watchmakers quietly sheltered Jews in their small house—until Nazis discovered the "hiding place" and arrested them all. This is the gripping, true story of Corrie and her sister's endurance in the horrors of the Ravesbruck death camp, and their sure hope that God alone is the true hiding place.

145 minutes, #8024
$19.95
Also available in Spanish, #8060

Joan of Arc

This is the Academy Award-winning film starring Ingrid Bergman as St. Joan of Arc. Bergman gives a splendid portrayal of the French farm girl who led the French army to victory against the English. A mammoth production with lavish color and a cast of thousands. Also starring Jose Ferrer.

100 minutes, #6212
$19.95

The Inn of the Sixth Happiness

Inspired by her dream to be a missionary, Gladys Aylward journeys to China and opens an inn for tired, hungry mule drivers crossing desolate mountain trails. Gradually overcoming the natives' hostility, she converts a powerful Mandarin to Christianity. But her greatest feat is achieved when she leads 100 homeless children to safety across enemy-held terrain. Includes Study Guide.

158 minutes, #1170
$19.95

Hildegard

Hildegard of Bingen was one of the most remarkable women of the Middle Ages—an Abbess and woman of God, a visionary, naturalist, playwright, political moralist, and composer. Despite this outpouring of religious creativity, her visions were called into question, and she was put on trial by the Church in 1148. Hildegard's experiences provide valuable insight into life in the medieval church and the amazing influence of a woman dedicated to God.

52 minutes, #9895 Ⓟ
$19.95

The Woman Who Willed a Miracle

The inspiring, true story of how May and Joseph Lemke, whose children are already grown, adopt a blind and severely retarded baby whom the doctors have given no chance of survival. But May Lemke dedicates herself completely to this child, and through love, patience and stubborn faith, she becomes the woman who willed a miracle.

50 minutes, #1043
$14.95

The Cross and the Switchblade

This is the true story of the beginning of David Wilkerson's ministry to the gangs of New York City and the conversion of Nicky Cruz, the notorious gang leader. The power of Christ to change the human heart is presented with unmistakable clarity and unforgettable impact. This film deals powerfully with the problems tearing at the fabric of our society today. Starring Pat Boone and Eric Estrada.

105 minutes, #4052 Ⓟ
$19.95

Available in Spanish, #8029.

The "Original" Shadowlands

Relive the journey of C. S. Lewis during the days prior to and after the cancer-related death of his wife, Joy in this film that captures both heart and mind. This is the original TV drama co-produced by the BBC and Gateway Films upon which the feature film was based. Winner of "Best Drama"—International Emmy, two British Academy Awards, and a dozen others. Starring Joss Ackland and Claire Bloom.

73 minutes, #4054 Ⓟ
$19.95

Life Flight

Evangelistic in content and geared to all ages, *Life Flight* is an action-packed program about finding meaning in life. A spine-tingling adventure about people trying to make sense of their lives–from the Vietnam veteran, scarred by war, to the idealistic flight nurse battling the bureaucracy and the administrator balancing lives and dollars.

83 minutes, #4025 Ⓟ
$19.95

The Fourth Wise Man

Based on Henry van Dyke's classic, "The Story of the Other Wise Man." A Magi named Artaban (Martin Sheen) sees a sign in the heavens that he hopes will lead him and his servant to the Messiah. They pursue Jesus for 33 years, only to miss Him at every turn. Along the way, Artaban uses his gifts to help people in dire need. He finally encounters the new King on Easter Sunday.

72 minutes, #4083 Ⓟ
$14.95

Also available in Spanish, #6207

Hazel's People

Meet the Mennonite and Amish people. Eric is an adamant fighter for human rights who discovers a way of life he never knew existed. While attending the funeral of his best friend, Eric meets a young Mennonite girl named Hazel. The Mennonites display an inner peace he can't understand. As he works side by side with them, Eric comes to understand the source of their peace and finds a personal faith in Christ. Parental discretion advised (language).

105 minutes, #9073 Ⓟ
$19.95

The Late Liz

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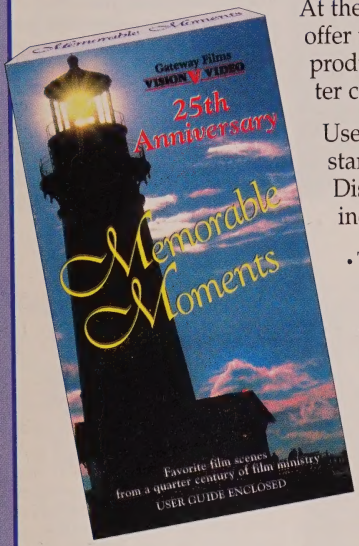

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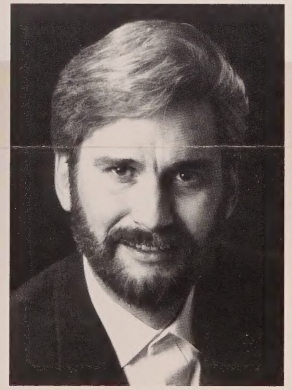
ABOUT LEONARD SWEET

A creative and dynamic preacher, Leonard I. Sweet, has been described as "one of the few people who can lead the church through this time of revolution." Dr. Sweet is celebrated as a futurist and a historian of American culture, as a seminary administrator, and as a speaker who communicates powerfully to a wide array of audiences. Newly announced Dean of the Theological School at Drew University in Madison, NJ, Len has served over 10 years as President and Professor of Church History at United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH. Previously, he was Provost of Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall/Crozer Theological Seminary in Rochester, NY. While Provost, he was senior minister of a church in a changing neighborhood in Rochester. Author of more than 100 articles and 11 books, Len is a frequent speaker at national conferences and pastors' schools.

"We must declare war on preaching that dulls minds and hearts. We need to animate our text until the Word of God comes alive for our listeners. We've got to use fresh, destarched stories, humor and imaginative approaches that enable interactive, participatory worship. Those are the kinds of things I wrestle with in every issue of HOMILETICS."

—Leonard Sweet



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Was God sending comfort and hope through the frail, mumbled song of a homeless man? Was he an angel in a heart-rending disguise? Whatever you decide, his surprising Christmas story and whispered melody will strike a chord in the hearts of your worshipers.

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Jesus does not leave us to fend for ourselves when we suffer attacks of little faith. Amid the quivers and quakes of life, we can fulfill our ministry and be faithful disciples.

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In a world that pushes us to make lists, check them twice, see if we've been naughty or nice, we learn something about the Jesus way of "scheduling" our day from the beggar's bowl, which is open to what providence places in it.

Plaque Buildup

The buildup of plaque on the human heart that comes as we harden ourselves against yet another onslaught of violence, greed or selfishness also cuts us off from God. That's why we need a Savior.

Celebrate Critical Mass

The church of Jesus' vision was not a bureaucracy but a potent force that drew its power and vitality from "two or three gathered in his name." Two millenniums later, that's still the critical mass needed for can-do-it-now ministries that change the world.

What's on the bottom of your shoe?

Shepherds don't so much lead flocks as they shoo them forward, walking behind or in the midst of their sheep (which is why shepherds wear rubber boots!). Jesus, the Good Shepherd, was always stepping in it -- riling up religious authorities, prodding his disciples, urging his followers forward, driving them to conclusions they didn't want to consider, keeping them on the right track. Churches, as the Good Shepherd's sheep dogs, need to do the same.

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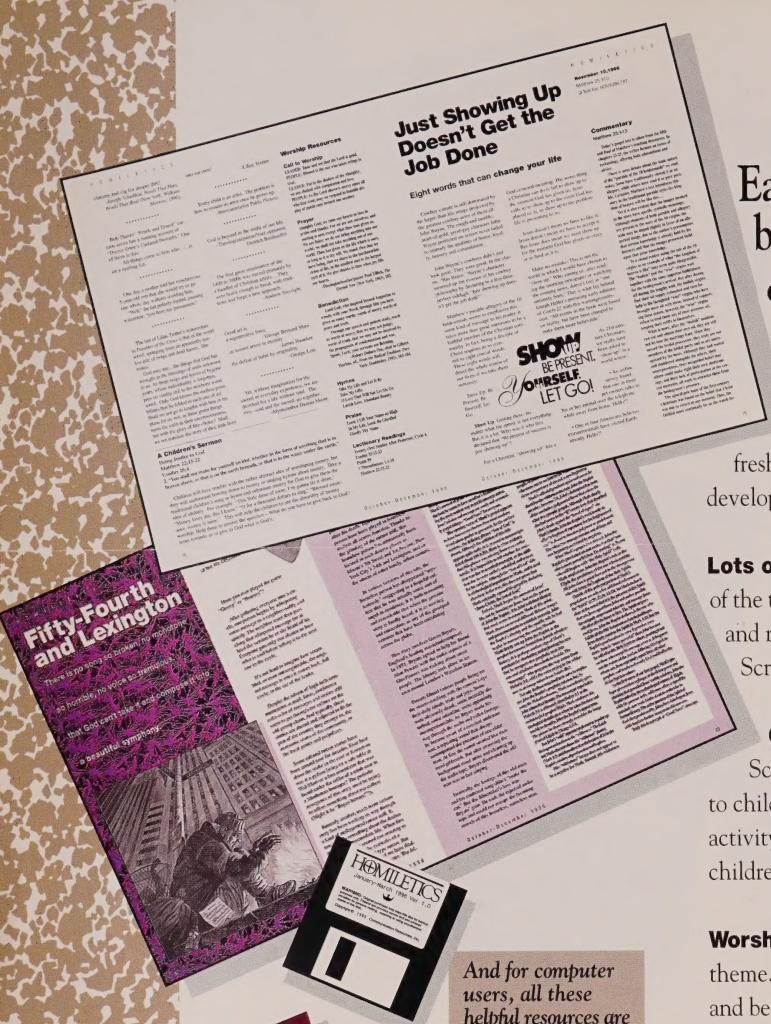

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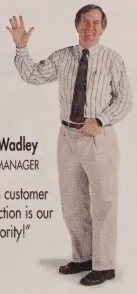

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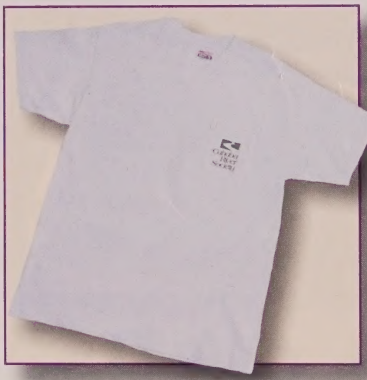

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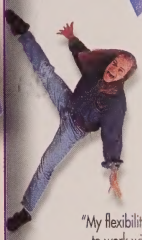

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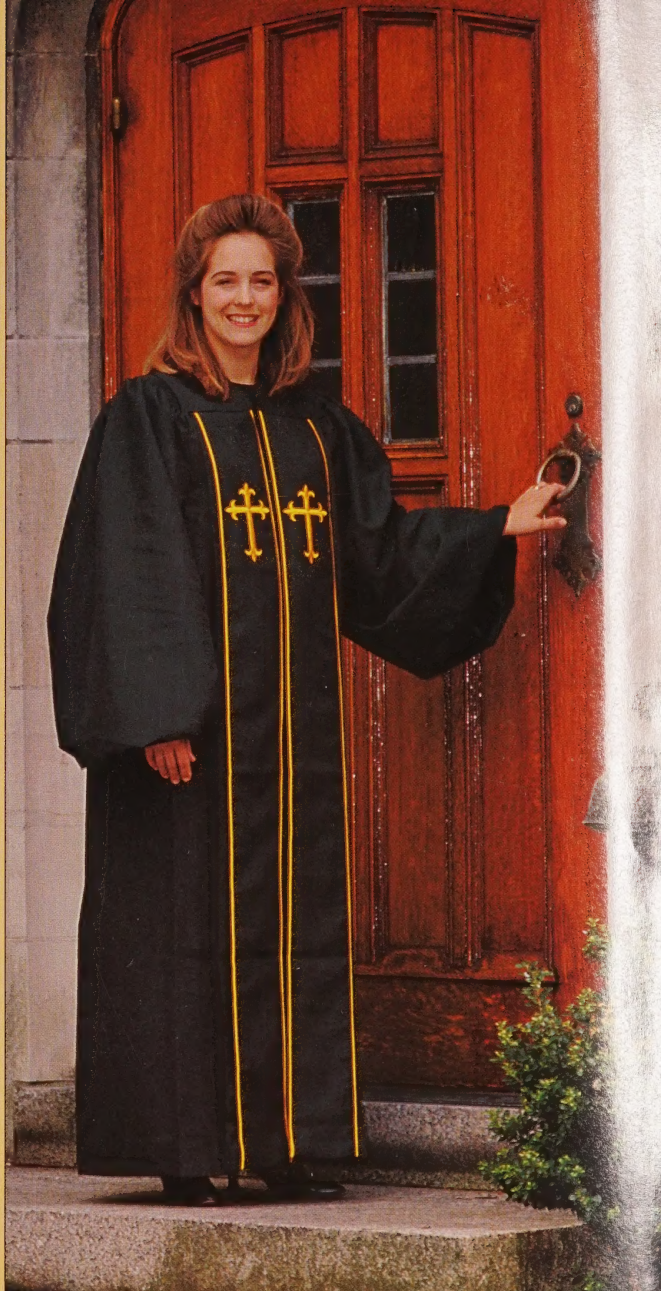

Spirit Robe #1000

Spirit Robe #1000 in burgundy with dickey neck cover

Make a statement of sophisticated dignity with the Spirit Robe #1000, one of our newest designs. Flattering to many figure types, this V-necked style lined with princess seaming has unpressed pleats which release at the waistline to add soft fullness to the skirt. This version features a concealed separating zipper under the front placket, side seam pockets, custom hem and sleeve length, and removable shoulder pads. Available in four fabrics.

Linen (75% polyester; 25% rayon). The texture of linen with the comfort of rayon. Machine wash cold, permanent press; tumble dry cool; hang when slightly damp. Available in ivory, burgundy, black, and white.
WV6-736510. **$375.00**

Crepe (55% polyester; 45% worsted wool). The beautiful texture of crepe with the look, drape, and breathability of wool, plus the easy care of a polyester blend. Machine wash cold; hang to dry; press lightly as needed. Available in charcoal gray, burgundy, and black.
WV6-736576. **$450.00**

Wool (100% wool challis). Very fine and lightweight. Breathable, long-lasting wool drapes beautifully and doesn't wrinkle! Dry clean only. Available in black.
WV6-736691. **$476.00**

Silk (100% silk noile). This comfortable, lightweight fabric is very soft and drapes exquisitely. Dry clean only. Available in natural.
WV6-736634. **$450.00**

Dickey Neck Cover. Available in fabrics and colors listed above. Give neck measurement when ordering.
WV6-742236. **Linen. $25.00**
WV6-742178. **Crepe. $28.00**
WV6-742054. **Wool. $30.00**
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The Spirit #1010 is a beautiful, lined robe combining a mandarin collar with darts at the front and back waist for a slightly closer fit than the Spirit 1000. It features a full-length, concealed separating zipper under the front placket, side seam pockets, custom hem and sleeve length, and removable shoulder pads. Available in four fabrics. See chart below for sizing.

Linen (75% polyester; 25% rayon). The luxurious weave of linen with the added comfort of rayon. Machine wash cold, permanent press; tumble dry cool; hang when slightly damp. Available in ivory, burgundy, black, and white.
WV6-735903. **$350.00**

Crepe (55% polyester; 45% worsted wool). The beautiful texture of crepe with the look, drape, and breathability of wool, plus the easy care of a polyester blend. Machine wash cold; hang to dry; press lightly as needed. Available in charcoal gray, burgundy, and black.
WV6-735960. **$425.00**

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WV6-736086. **$450.00**

Silk (100% silk noile). This comfortable, lightweight fabric is very soft and drapes exquisitely. Dry clean only. Available in natural.
WV6-736020. **$425.00**

WomenSpirit robes are available in small, medium, large, and extra large sizes only.

Size Chart for WomenSpirit Robes

	S	M	L	XL
Bust	32–34	36–38	40–42	44–46
Waist	26–28	30–32	34–36	38–40
Hip	36–38	40–42	44–46	48–50
*Back Waist Length**	16	16½	16½	16½
Shoulder to Shoulder	15	15½	16	17

measurements in inches
* Measure from base of neck, down back, to waist.

See enclosed measurement form for directions on measuring.

Spirit Robe #1000 in black crepe shown without dickey neck cover

Spirit Robe #1010 in gray crepe

In Stitches Patchwork Robe

Patchwork Robe in white

Color yourself extraordinary with this colorful patchwork robe from In Stitches. A popular alternative to other robes, this liturgical robe is slightly fuller in style than the traditional alb, with the fullness eased to the sides. The patchwork liturgical multi-colored bar runs full-length from shoulder to hem, with a yoked back and off-the-shoulder oriental sleeves. Velcro closures and pockets; polyester blend. Available in black or white.

Sizes: small, medium short, medium long, large short, and large long. Give measurements or size and color when ordering.
WV6-736758. **$275.00**

Size Chart for Robes by *In Stitches*

Size	Robe Length	Person's Height	Chest Bust	Sleeve Length
Small	48"	5'–5'1"	30–34	26"
Medium Short	50"	5'2"–5'4"	36–40	28"
Medium Long	54"	5'5"–5'7"	36–40	30"
Large Short	56"	5'8"–5'10"	42–48	32"
Large Long	60"	5'11"–	42–48	34"

Not sure about what size to order?
Refer to the sizing information
on the accompanying order form,
or call our robe representatives toll free:
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7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (CST) Monday–Friday
We'll be glad to help!

Spirit Robe #1020

The Spirit #1020: comfortable, yet reverent; simple, yet elegant. This robe features a mandarin collar with front and back pleated bodice; pleats which release at the waistline for a full silhouette; a full-length, concealed separating zipper under the front placket; side seam pockets, and removable shoulder pads. Unlined. Available in two fabrics. See chart below for sizing information.

Linen (75% polyester; 25% rayon). The texture of linen with the added comfort of rayon. Machine wash cold; permanent press cycle; tumble dry cool; hang when slightly damp. Available in ivory, burgundy, black, and white.
WV6-735721. **$340.00**

Silk (100% silk noile). This comfortable, lightweight fabric is very soft and drapes exquisitely. Dry clean only. Available in natural.
WV6-735787. **$360.00**

Purple Stole and Scapular. Both feature hand-woven African cotton and textured silk dupioni accented with silken cording and Kente cloth for a striking display of color.

Scapular: 16" wide at shoulder, tapering to 10" at hem, with Velcro fasteners at shoulder. 45" or 52" long, measured in back from base of neck. Select desired length.
WV6-736281. **$200.00**

Stole: 104" long, tapering at neck.*
WV6-736224. **$150.00**

*A 92" model is available by special order.
Call **1-800-237-7511** for information.

Size Chart for WomenSpirit Robes

	S	M	L	XL
Bust	32–34	36–38	40–42	44–46
Waist	26–28	30–32	34–36	38–40
Hip	36–38	40–42	44–46	48–50
*Back Waist Length**	16	16½	16½	16½
Shoulder to Shoulder	15	15½	16	17

measurements in inches
* Measure from base of neck, down back, to waist.

Spirit #1020 in white linen

Spirit #1020 in white linen with purple scapular

Spirit #1020 in white linen with purple stole

Spirit Robe #1011

Spirit Robe #1011 in black linen

Dignified and mature, the Spirit #1011 combines a mandarin collar with darts at the front and back to shape the waistline. A full-length, concealed separating zipper under the front placket. Side seam pockets; unlined with removable shoulder pads. Your size is determined by size ordered or measurements submitted on accompanying measurement form.

Available in four fabrics:

Linen (75% polyester; 25% rayon). The texture of linen with the added comfort of rayon. Machine wash cold, permanent press; tumble dry cool; hang when slightly damp. Available in ivory, burgundy, black, and white.
WV6-735606. **$275.00**

Crepe (55% polyester; 45% worsted wool). The beautiful texture of crepe with the look, drape, and breathability of wool, plus the easy care of a polyester blend. Machine wash cold; hang to dry; press lightly as needed. Available in charcoal gray, burgundy, and black.
WV6-735845. **$340.00**

Wool (100% wool challis). Very fine and lightweight. Breathable, long-lasting wool drapes beautifully and doesn't wrinkle! Dry clean only. Available in black.
WV6-736452. **$360.00**

Silk (100% silk noile). This comfortable, lightweight fabric is very soft and drapes exquisitely. Dry clean only. Available in natural.
WV6-736394. **$340.00**

Available in small, medium, large, and extra large sizes. See size chart on page 7.

The #1011 Spirit Robe is unlined with darts to give soft shape to the graceful A-line silhouette. A full-length front zipper allows to slip on easily.

Both the emerald green stole and scapular are hand-woven of Guatemalan cotton and textured silk dupioni and are combined with gold, red and white silken cording for a striking display of color. Stole and scapular are also available by special order in royal blue, red, or white.

Scapular: 16" wide at shoulder, tapering to 10" at hem, 45" or 52" measured in back from base of neck (select desired length). Fastens at shoulder with Velcro. Silken cording stitched down the front. WV6-736348. **$200.00**

Stole: 104"* long, tapering at neck. WV6-737890. **$150.00**

*A 92" model is available by special order. Call **1-800-237-7511** for information.

Size Chart for WomenSpirit Robes

	S	M	L	XL
Bust	32–34	36–38	40–42	44–46
Waist	26–28	30–32	34–36	38–40
Hip	36–38	40–42	44–46	48–50
*Back Waist Length**	16	16½	16½	16½
Shoulder to Shoulder	15	15½	16	17

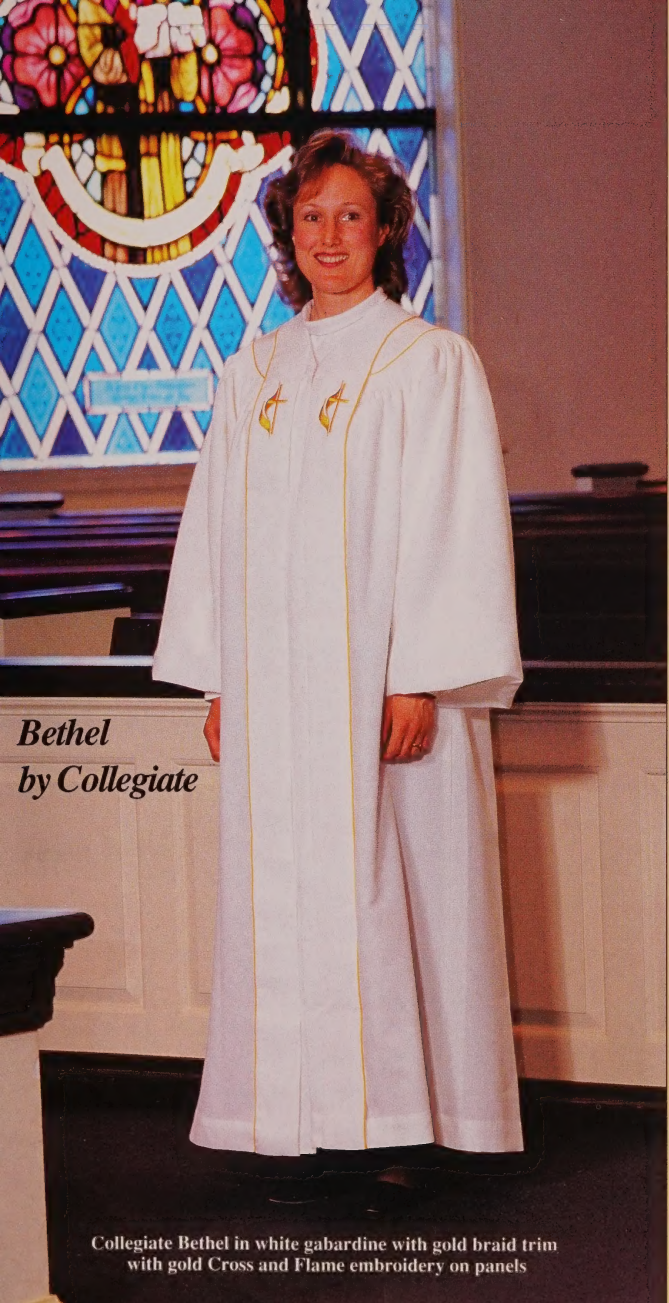
measurements in inches
* Measure from base of neck, down back, to waist.

We're ready to help you with any questions you might have! Call toll free: **1-800-237-7511.**

Spirit Robe #1011 in ivory linen

Spirit Robe #1011 in ivory linen with emerald green scapular

Spirit Robe #1011 in ivory linen with emerald green stole



Collegiate Bethel in white gabardine with gold braid trim with gold Cross and Flame embroidery on panels

Collegiate's new Bethel robe offers the distinguished look of a classic with enough custom options to give it truly your own style and presence. A curved fluted yoke, velvet panels, suit sleeves, finished buttons, and a full front-length zipper. You choose from a full assortment of special features: pockets, pocket slits, embroidery, and braid trim. The Bethel is custom-designed to your specifications; please use the bound-in measurement form to order.

Available in five fabrics: Visa Gabardine (choose from 24 colors), Visa Montego (choose from 19 colors), Visa Valencia (choose from 14 colors), Poly Cotton, and Flax Weave. We will be happy to send you swatches of the different fabrics in all available colors. Call us toll free at **1-800-237-7511.**

Bethel Pricing Chart

Gabardine	(7430)	**$198.00**
Valencia	(1128)	**$206.00**
Poly Cotton	(372)	**$214.00**
Montego	(8288)	**$258.00**
Flax Weave	(706/706)	**$246.00**

Standard Features:

Velvet Panels
Rounded Fluted Yoke
One Pocket

Options:

Braid around yoke	**$4.20**
Braid on panels	**$15.25**
Optional 2nd Pocket	**$7.70**
Pocket Slit	**$5.00**
Cross Monograms (2)	**$31.20**
UM Monograms (2)	**$35.40**

Additional denominational and religious symbols available for monogramming. Call 1-800-237-7511.

For prompt service,
fill out the enclosed measurement form,
take it by your local Cokesbury store, or
mail or fax your order today.

Trilogy Pulpit Robe #424 by Collegiate

Collegiate's Trilogy Pulpit Robe offers the distinguished look of the Bethel model without fluting on the yoke. Enjoy a wide variety of custom options to create your very own statement. Standard features include velvet panels, suit sleeves, one pocket, finished buttons, and a full front-length zipper. You choose embroidery, chevrons, braid trim, and more! The Trilogy is custom-fit to your specifications; please use the bound-in measurement form to order.

Available in five fabrics: Visa Gabardine (choose from 24 colors), Visa Montego (choose from 19 colors), Visa Valencia (choose from 14 colors), Poly Cotton, and Flax Weave. For a complete list of fabrics and colors, call toll free **1-800-237-7511** for a free pulpit catalog and fabric brochure.

Trilogy Pricing Chart

Gabardine	**(7430)**	**$193.00**
Valencia	**(1128)**	**$201.00**
Poly Cotton	**(372)**	**$209.00**
Montego	**(8288)**	**$251.00**
Flax Weave	**(706/706)**	**$240.00**

Standard Features:

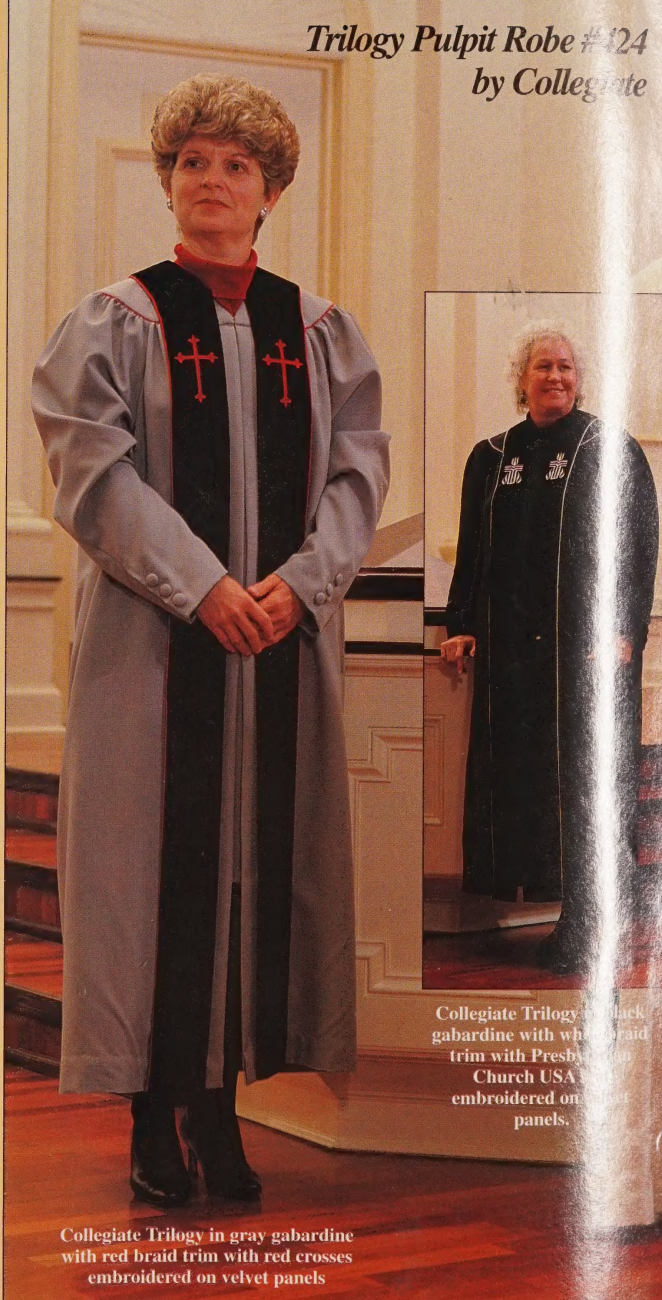
Velvet Panels
Rounded Shirred Yoke
One Pocket

Options for Trilogy:

Braid on panels	**$15.25**
Braid around Yoke	**$4.20**
Cross Monograms (2)	**$31.20**
PC (USA) Monograms (2)	**$50.00**

Additional denominational and religious symbols available for monogramming. To fax your order: 1-800-445-8189.

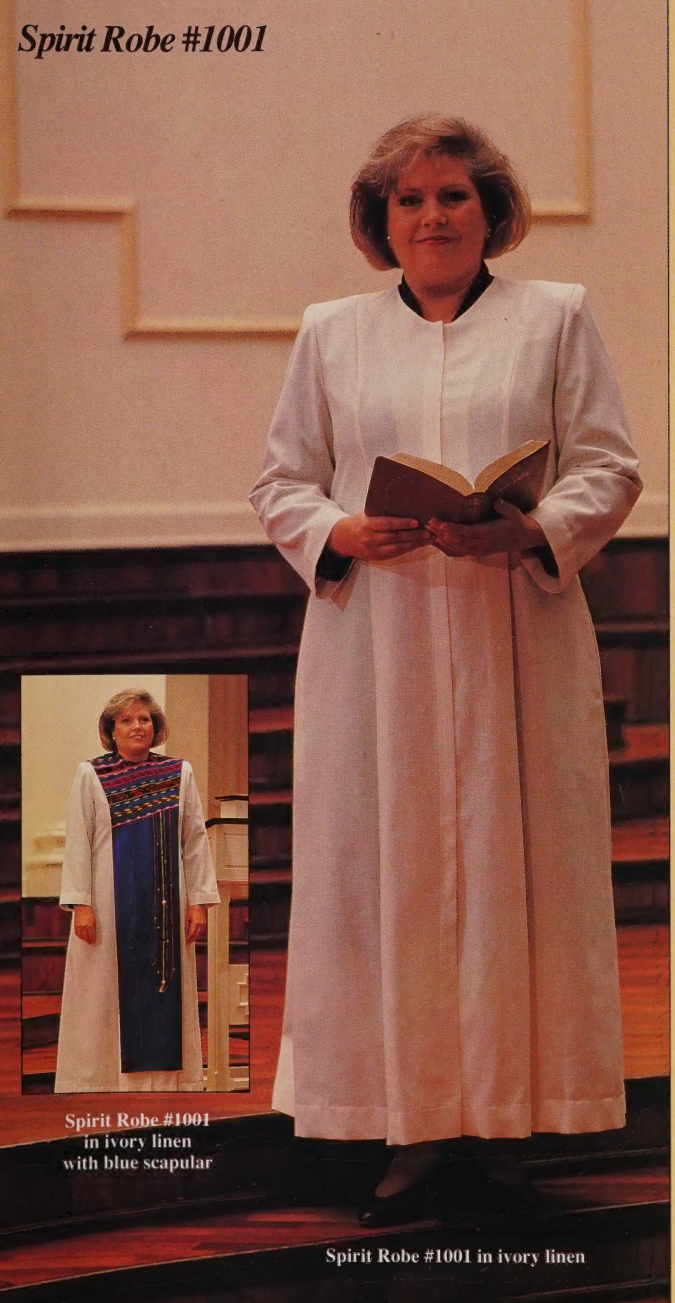
Call us toll free: **1-800-237-7511.**
We'll be glad to help!



Collegiate Trilogy in black gabardine with white braid trim with Presbyterian Church USA logo embroidered on velvet panels.

Collegiate Trilogy in gray gabardine with red braid trim with red crosses embroidered on velvet panels

Spirit Robe #1001



Spirit Robe #1001 in ivory linen with blue scapular

Spirit Robe #1001 in ivory linen

The Spirit #1001 combines a traditional V-neck with princess seaming. Unpressed pleats release at the waistline to add soft fullness to the skirt. Full-length, concealed separating zipper under the front placket; side seam pockets; removable shoulder pads. Unlined. Comes in small, medium, large, and extra large sizes. Your size is determined by measurements submitted on accompanying measurement form, or see sizing chart on page 11.

Linen (75% polyester; 25% rayon). The texture of linen with the added comfort of rayon. Available in ivory, burgundy, black, and white.
Fabric Care: Machine wash cold; permanent press cycle; tumble dry cool; hang when slightly damp.
WV6-736202. **$300.00**

Crepe (55% polyester; 45% worsted wool). The beautiful texture of crepe with the look, drape, and breathability of wool, plus the easy care of a polyester blend. Available in charcoal gray, burgundy, and black.
Fabric Care: Machine wash cold; hang to dry; press lightly as needed.
WV6-736213. **$370.00**

Wool (100% wool challis). Very fine and lightweight. Breathable, long-lasting wool drapes beautifully and doesn't wrinkle! Available in black.
Fabric Care: Dry clean only.
WV6-736270. **$396.00**

Silk (100% silk noile). This comfortable, lightweight fabric is very soft and drapes exquisitely. Available in natural and black. *Fabric Care:* Dry clean only.
WV6-736337. **$370.00**

Blue Scapular. This blue scapular is hand-woven of Guatemalan cotton and textured silk dupioni. The silken cording, reflecting a vibrant seasonal color scheme, appeals to children and represents our multi-faceted society. 16" wide at shoulder, tapering to 10" at hem. Available in 45" or 52" lengths, measured back from base of neck. Fastens at shoulder with Velcro.
WV6-736144. **$200.00**

Matching stole available by special order in blue, green, purple, royal, red, or white.

Achieve a classic "Cassock" look with the Spirit #1040. Double-breasted with self fabric-covered buttons, the #1040 is gracefully tailored in the empire style, with the waistline placed 2 inches above the waist. Soft pleats in the front and back add gentle fullness to the skirt. Unlined; step-in front opening; drop shoulder. Sleeve is tapered into the wrist; replaceable shoulder pads and side seam pockets. Comes in small, medium, large, and extra large sizes. Determine your size on accompanying measurement form.

Crepe (55% polyester; 45% worsted wool). The beautiful texture of crepe with the look, drape, and breathability of wool, plus the easy care of a polyester blend. Available in charcoal gray, burgundy, and black.
Fabric Care: Machine wash cold; hang to dry; press lightly as needed.
WV6-735663. **$340.00**

Silk (100% silk noile). This comfortable, lightweight fabric is very soft and drapes exquisitely. Available in natural.
Fabric Care: Dry clean only.
WV6-735481. **$340.00**

Size Chart for WomenSpirit Robes

	S	M	L	XL
Bust	32–34	36–38	40–42	44–46
Waist	26–28	30–32	34–36	38–40
Hip	36–38	40–42	44–46	48–50
*Back Waist Length**	16	16½	16½	16½
Shoulder to Shoulder	15	15½	16	17

measurements in inches
* Measure from base of neck, down back, to waist.

Not sure about what size to order?
Refer to the sizing information above and on the accompanying order form, or call us toll free: **1-800-237-7511.**
We'll be glad to help!

Spirit Robe #1040 in black crepe

Shepherd Robe by Collegiate

Collegiate Shepherd in navy gabardine

Collegiate's New Shepherd Robe features a unique hem and side vent that give it a simple, yet very feminine touch. Flared sleeves offer freedom of movement and the crew, snap collar gives you the professional look you want. The crossover front is secured at the collarbone with Velcro closures. Two pleats on each side; epaulet on right shoulder.

Available in four fabrics: Visa Gabardine (choose from 24 colors), Visa Montego (choose from 19 colors), Visa Valencia (choose from 14 colors), and Flax Weave. Custom-made according to your measurements submitted on the enclosed order form.

Shepherd Pricing Chart

		Shepherd	Shepherd Stole
Gabardine	(7430)	**$123.00**	**$12.90**
Montego	(8288)	**$136.00**	**$13.25**
Flax Weave	(706/706)	**$134.00**	**N/A**

Shepherd Standard Features:

Shepherd Collar
Velcro/Snap Closure
Shepherd Cuff

Shepherd Option

One Epaulet **$3.15**

Fax your order anytime: 1-800-445-8189.

Free fabric brochure available on request!
To order, refer to the sizing information on the accompanying order form, visit your local Cokesbury store, or call us toll free: **1-800-237-7511.**
We'll be glad to help!

Cokesbury Robe Order Form

Charge to

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Ship to

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Male _____ Female _____

(1) Height _____ (2) Weight _____

(3) Shoulder to shoulder _____

(4) Chest _____ (5) Waist _____

(6) Neck _____ (7) Hips _____

(8) Sleeves _____

(9) Collar bone to floor _____

Desired floor clearance of hem _____

(1) **Height:** Give total height from the top of the head to the floor with shoes; record in feet and inches.

(2) **Weight:** List the approximate weight in street clothes. An estimate within 5–10 pounds is acceptable.

ulder to shoulder: Measure from the outside ılder to outside shoulder (A).

st: Make sure measuring tape is well up under arms and over the shoulder blades before ısuring the widest part of the chest or bust (B), g but not tight.

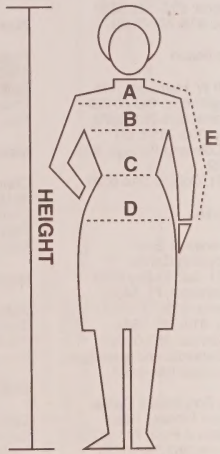
st: Measure completely around the waist while the vidual is relaxed (C).

k: Give regular shirt ar size or measure ınd the base of the k just above the ulders.

s: Measure completely ınd the hips at the est point (D).

eves: Give usual rt/blouse sleeve length while arm is naturally at side, measure from nt "A" at center back of neck over the top of shoulder and along the ter arm to the break at back of the wrist (E).

ollar bone to floor: ıvıeasure from bone at back of neck to floor.



Underarm Shields ❑ Yes ❑ No

Date Needed _____ Price _____

Extras _____

_____

_____

Signed _____

Date _____

BUSINESS
FIRST CLASS MAIL

Postage will be paid by addre

From

_____

_____

_____

Collegiate Messenger in white gabardine with red Messenger stole

Cokesbury Robe Order Form

Charge to

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Ship to

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Telephone Number (_____) _____

Account or Card Number* _____

Card Expiration Date _____

Signature (for credit cards only)

_____

* Payment by (check one)

❑ Cash ❑ Cokesbury Account ❑ MasterCard

❑ Visa ❑ Discover ❑ AmExpress

Robe Style _____

Fabric Name & # _____

Fabric Color _____

Panels _____ Color _____

Panel Fabric _____

Braid Trim Around Panels _____ Color _____

Symbol to be Embroidered _____

Color of Embroidery _____

Chevrons _____ Color _____

Braid Trim Around Chevrons _____ Braid Color _____

Underarm Shields ❑ Yes ❑ No

Date Needed _____ Price _____

Extras _____

_____

_____

Male _____ Female _____

(1) Height _____ (2) Weight _____

(3) Shoulder to shoulder _____

(4) Chest _____ (5) Waist _____

(6) Neck _____ (7) Hips _____

(8) Sleeves _____

(9) Collar bone to floor _____

Desired floor clearance of hem _____

(1) **Height:** Give total height from the top of the head to the floor with shoes; record in feet and inches.

(2) **Weight:** List the approximate weight in street clothes. An estimate within 5–10 pounds is acceptable.

(3) **Shoulder to shoulder:** Measure from the outside shoulder to outside shoulder (A).

(4) **Chest:** Make sure measuring tape is well up under the arms and over the shoulder blades before measuring the widest part of the chest or bust (B), snug but not tight.

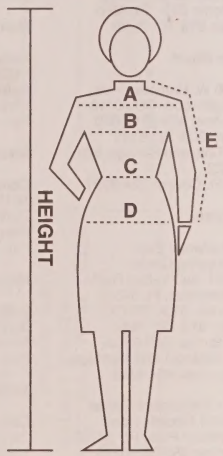
(5) **Waist:** Measure completely around the waist while the individual is relaxed (C).

(6) **Neck:** Give regular shirt collar size or measure around the base of the neck just above the shoulders.

(7) **Hips:** Measure completely around the hips at the widest point (D).

(8) **Sleeves:** Give usual shirt/blouse sleeve length or, while arm is naturally at the side, measure from point "A" at center back of the neck over the top of the shoulder and along the outer arm to the break at the back of the wrist (E).

(9) **Collar bone to floor:** Measure from bone at back of neck to floor.



Signed _____

Date _____

Collegiate Messenger in white gabardine with red Messenger stole

Robes for Today's Clergy Woman

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For additional information on pulpit robes, albs, choir robes, and ministerial stoles, call toll free: **1-800-237-7511,** or call or visit your local Cokesbury store.

Collegiate Shepherd in navy gabardine

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

REPLY MAIL

T NO. 510 NASHVILLE, TN

Cokesbury

Attn: Special Sales — Robe Department
201 Eighth Avenue South
P.O. Box 801
Nashville, TN 37202-9931

The Messenger from Collegiate is ideal for today's woman clergy. Incorporating features from both a pulpit robe and an alb, the Messenger offers a snap supported by a Velcro closure at the collarbone and simplified bell robe sleeves with Velcro closures. The epaulet on the right shoulder holds the optional Messenger stole in place. The stole is available in the five liturgical colors.

Available in three fabrics: Visa Gabardine (choose from 24 colors), Visa Montego (choose from 19 colors), and Flax Weave (choose from three colors). Custom-made according to your measurements submitted on the enclosed order form.

Messenger Pricing Chart

Gabardine	(7430)	**$129.00**
Montego	(8288)	**$142.00**
Flax Weave	(706/706)	**$140.00**

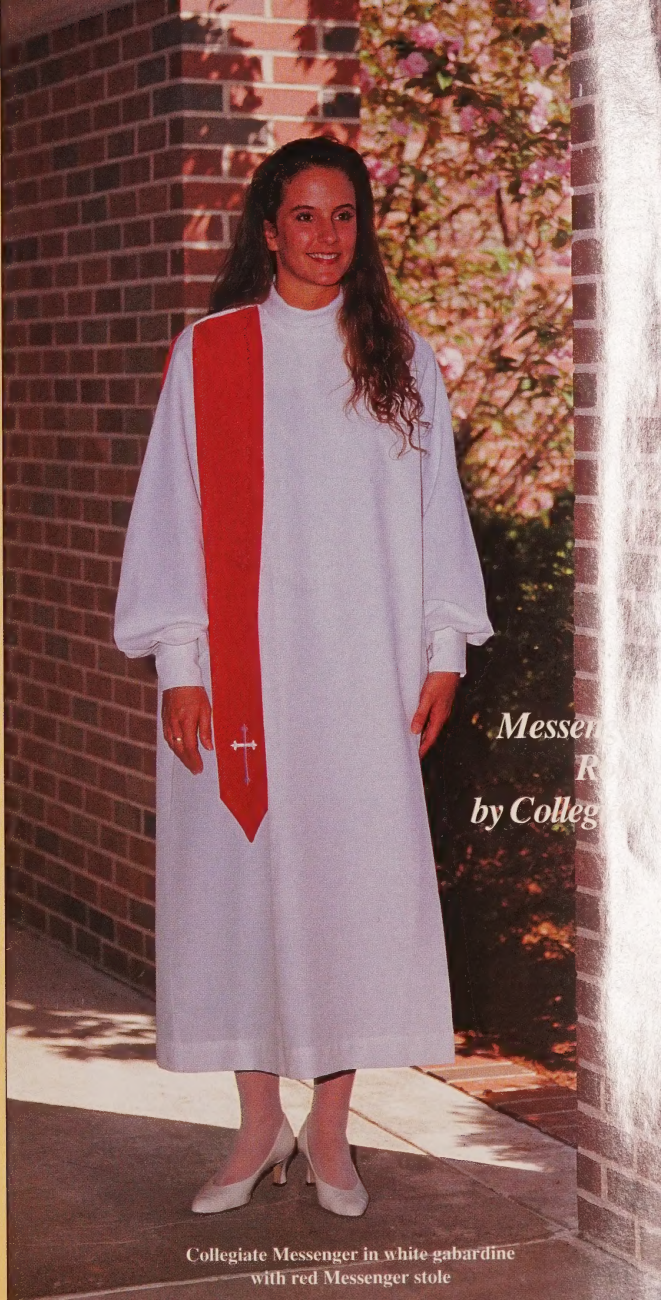
Messenger Standard Features:

Messenger Collar
Velcro/Snap Closure
Round Sleeve
Decorative Cloth Covered Button
Angled Front

Messenger Options:

1 Epaulette	**$3.15**
Messenger Stole	**$14.80**
S500 Cuff	**$7.50**

Please refer to the order/measurement form bound into this catalog to determine your proper measurements.



Collegiate Messenger in white gabardine with red Messenger stole

Albs by Collegiate

Westminster Alb #B295
in white gabardine

Eastminster Alb #B290
in white gabardine

An old tradition comes alive with these albs designed with many modern-day features. The standard alb includes a taperfit collar, free sash cord, and your choice of two front-opening designs. Both albs are custom-designed to your specifications. Use the enclosed order/measurement form to order.

Westminster B295—tailored with a crossover front body panel; Velcro closure.

Eastminster B290—features a centerfront zipper closure.

Other standard features include: cloth-covered buttons; full-length side pleats in front and back; inverted box pleat at center back for fullness and comfort; coat-style sleeves with finished cuffs and left hidden pocket; full right pocket and left side slit opening on left side. Optional soft, rollover collars and standard 5" floor clearance.

Westminster/Eastminster Pricing Chart

	Visa Gabardine (7430)	Poly Cotton (372)	Visa Montego (8288)	Flax Weave (704/706)
Westminster B295	$113.00	$121.00	$130.00	$128.00
Westminster B295L*	$142.00	$150.00	$160.00	$158.00
Eastminster B290	$108.00	$116.00	$123.00	$122.00
Eastminster B290L*	$137.00	$145.00	$153.00	$151.00

* L indicates lace inserts

Options for Westminster/Eastminster Albs:

Soft Roll-over Collar	**$6.50**
Full Hood	**$13.00**
Double-Length Sash Cord (14 feet)	**$8.40**

The Choir Alb (A185) is traditional in design. Its unique styling includes double-breasted front; convenient Velcro closure; pocket slit on each side; two deep pleats in back for extra fullness; free sash cord in your choice of colors; standard 5" floor clearance. The Choir Alb is tailored to your specific measurements. Please use the enclosed order/measurement form to order.

Choir Alb Pricing Chart

Visa Gabardine	**(7430)**	**$90.00**
Visa Montego	**(8288)**	**$102.25**
Flax Weave	**(704/706)**	**$106.00**

Options for Choir Alb:

Soft Roll-over Collar	**$6.50**
Full Hood	**$13.00**
Double-Length Sash Cord (14 feet)	**$8.40**

Sash Cords are a very attractive addition to any alb. One is provided free with each Collegiate alb you order. Available in off-white, white, theological green, royal blue, purple, black, and maroon. Please specify color when ordering.

For a fabric sample and a complete catalog of all the robes we carry, call toll free **1-800-237-7511** or visit your local Cokesbury store.

You may reach our robe representatives from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. (CST), Monday – Friday.

Choir Alb (A185) by Collegiate

Choir Alb in white gabardine

Alb by Abbott Hall

Abbott Hall Alb in white poly/cotton/flax blend

The Abbott Hall alb features a 50% polyester, 35% cotton, 15% flax blend, which means you get a comfortably cool garment that is fully washable! No expensive dry-cleaning bills! Sewn cuffs with a smaller hood. Intended to be worn without a cincture. Custom-fit to your specifications; submit your measurements on the accompanying order form. NAB-113. $124.95

In an effort to provide a wide assortment of high-quality robe styles and fabrics, Cokesbury has formed partnerships with five individually distinct robe companies, each one striving for excellence in the products it provides.

We also provide a wide assortment of choir robes and capes, plus additional pulpit robes and stoles.

For a free catalog of any of these products, please call us toll free: **1-800-237-7511** or shop at any of our 46 bookstores. It is our pleasure to give the best service possible.

This alb by Maryweave is lightweight and comfortable. Its poly/rayon/flax blend means that it is completely washable! Simple lines coupled with oversized sleeves and the hood create a striking, yet subdued look. Wear with or without a stole. WV6-759156. $145.00

This hooded alb comes in a handwoven, wool/silk/cotton blend that is soft to the touch and remarkably comfortable. Large sleeves and a simple hood come together to create a dignified, reverent monastic look. Especially striking when worn with a handwoven wool overlay stole (stole extra). WV6-742830. $342.00

Green Wheat Stole. Handspun, handwoven wool overlay. Shown on alb #742830.
WV6-742715. **$159.00**

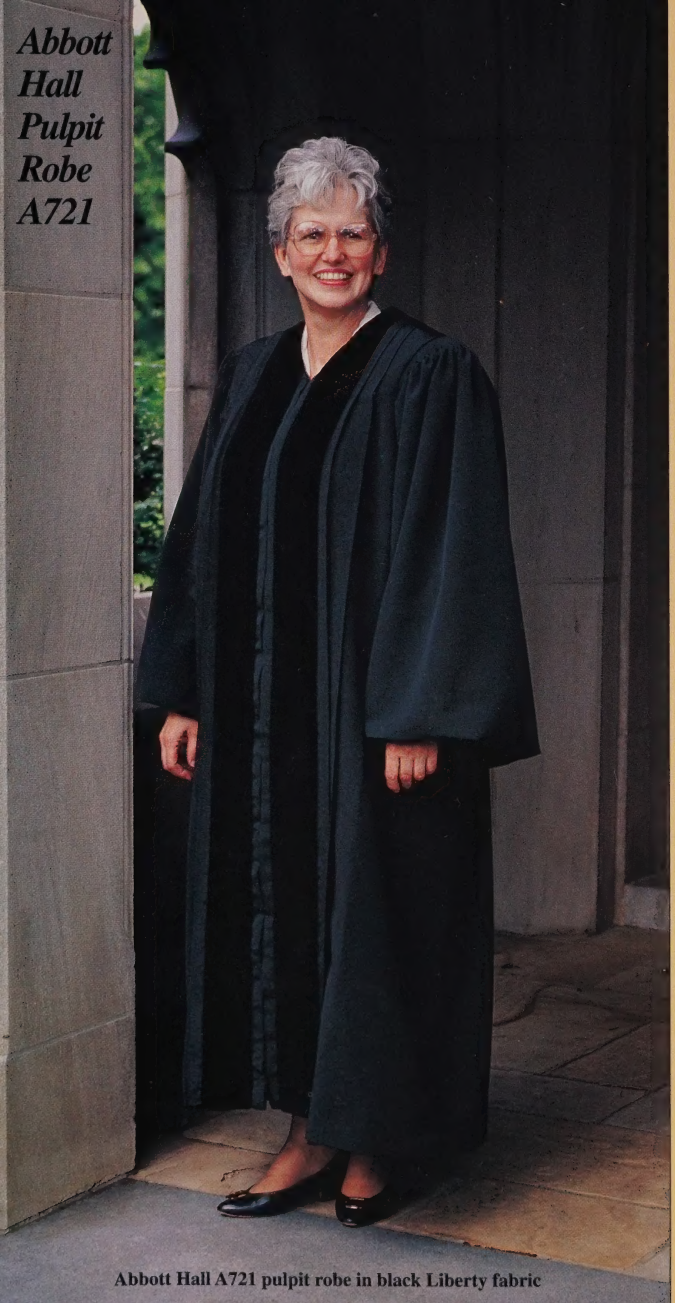
Eveningtide Stole. Handspun, handwoven wool overlay. Not shown.
WV6-742772. **$159.00**

For a fabric sample and a complete catalog of all the robes we carry, call toll free **1-800-237-7511** or visit your local Cokesbury store, where these and many more robes and stoles are on display.

Alb WV6-742830 in white wool/silk/cotton blend with Green Wheat Stole

Alb WV6-759156 in off-white poly/rayon/flax blend

Abbott Hall Pulpit Robe A721



Abbott Hall A721 pulpit robe in black Liberty fabric

Discover the classic styling of this new pulpit robe from Abbott Hall. Incorporating a completely redesigned yoke and shoulders, the A721 is made just for you. It comes with plush velvet panels, each of which has two pleats on both sides that carry over the back of the yoke. Slit openings allow convenient access to suit or dress pockets.

Made of black Liberty fabric, a 100% polyester cloth of superior strength, durability, and beauty, which is wrinkle-resistant with a soil-release finish. Custom-tailored from measurements on accompanying order/measurement form.
WV6-763455. **$345.00**

Cokesbury works with nationally known robe manufacturers to create styles with you in mind. Each robe features top-quality fabrics and workmanship. We guarantee your satisfaction.

Visit your local Cokesbury store to try on any of these exciting new styles.

If your area is not served by one of our stores, please call toll free: **1-800-237-7511**
We'll be glad to help!

This exquisite black pulpit robe (NPG27B) is from the Abbott Hall Speed-Ship line, which means you receive your high-quality robe in the quickest time possible.
Please note: ***Speed-Ship robes cannot be custom ordered.***

The NPG27B (made especially for women) comes with gold crosses and cording, a completely redesigned yoke and shoulders, and plush velvet panels, each of which has two pleats on both sides that carry over the back of the yoke. Slit openings allow convenient access to suit or dress pockets.

Made of Liberty fabric, a 100% polyester cloth of superior strength, durability, and beauty, which is wrinkle-resistant with a soil-release finish. Available in black (NPG27B) or white (NPG27W). Choose from six sizes; see chart below. WV6-763876. Speed-Ship with gold crosses and cording. **$199.95**

Sizing Chart for Speed-Ship Pulpit Robes

Available in these sizes:	Robe Length	Height	Chest	Sleeve
Small Short (SS)	51"	5'3"–5'5"	38–40	32"
Small Long (SL)	53"	5'6"–5'7"	38–40	33"
Medium Short (MS)	55"	5'8"–5'9"	42–44	33"
Medium Long (ML)	57"	5'10"–5'11"	42–44	34"
Large Short (LS)	59"	6'–6'2"	44–46	34"
Large Long (LL)	61"	6'3" & up	44–46	35"

Cokesbury offers a wide array of Speed-Ship robes, and our stores carry many robes in stock for immediate delivery.

Abbott Hall NPG27B Speed-Ship Pulpit Robe in black Liberty fabric with gold crosses and cording

Clergy Blouses

Tab Collar Blouses.
Cokesbury Clergy Collection. Crisp front pleats give a professional, tailored look. Made to highest standards of fine tailoring. Lightweight, breathable 55% polyester/45% cotton 2-ply broadcloth. No pockets. Made in U.S.A. Specify size when ordering: 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22. Some sizes may not be available. Friar Tuck shirts will be substituted. C08

WV6-316910.	White, long sleeves.	**$39.00**
WV6-316908.	Black, long sleeves.	**$39.00**
WV6-316830.	Ecru, long sleeves.	**$39.00**
WV6-316841.	Black, short sleeves.	**$34.50**
WV6-316921.	White, short sleeves.	**$34.50**
WV6-316932.	Peach, short sleeves.	**$34.50**
WV6-316943.	Lavender, short sleeves.	**$34.50**

Friar Tuck.
60% polyester/40% cotton. Double stitched placket. Fitted with darts. Overblouse style bottom. Cuffed sleeves. Tab included. F01
WV6-316921. White, short sleeves. **$34.50**

Neckband Shirts.
Friar Tuck. 60% polyester/ 40% cotton. Double stitched placket. Fitted with darts. Overblouse style bottom. Cuffed short sleeves. Adjustable cuff on long sleeves. Full white collar extra. F01
WV6-476330. Black, short sleeves. **$32.50**
WV6-476498. Black, long sleeves. **$38.50**

Friar Tuck Women's Blouse Sizes

Bust	Collar	Dress Size
32*	13	
34	13½	6
36	14	8
38	14½	10
40	15	12
42	15½	14
44**	16	16
46***	16½	18
48***	17	20

*Black only
**Short-sleeve blouses
***Long sleeve only

Contemporary Stoles

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See pages 5 and 7 of this catalog for additional stoles.

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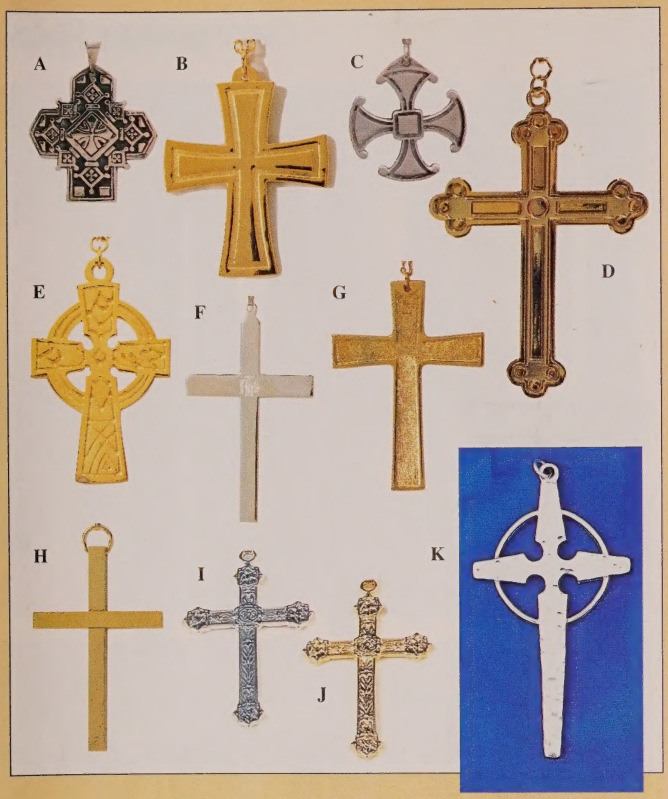

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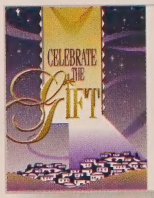

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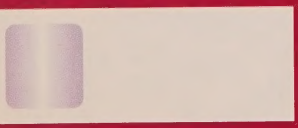

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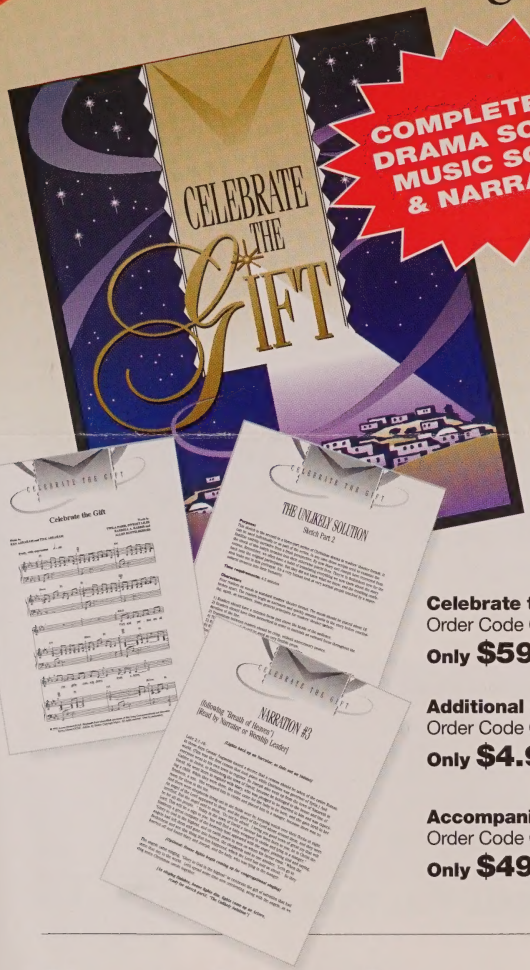

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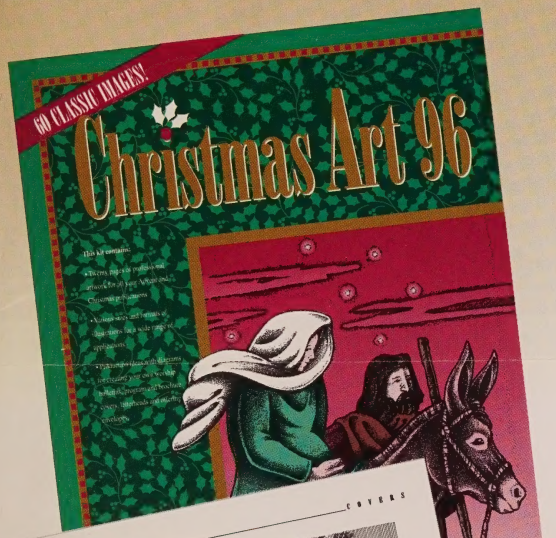

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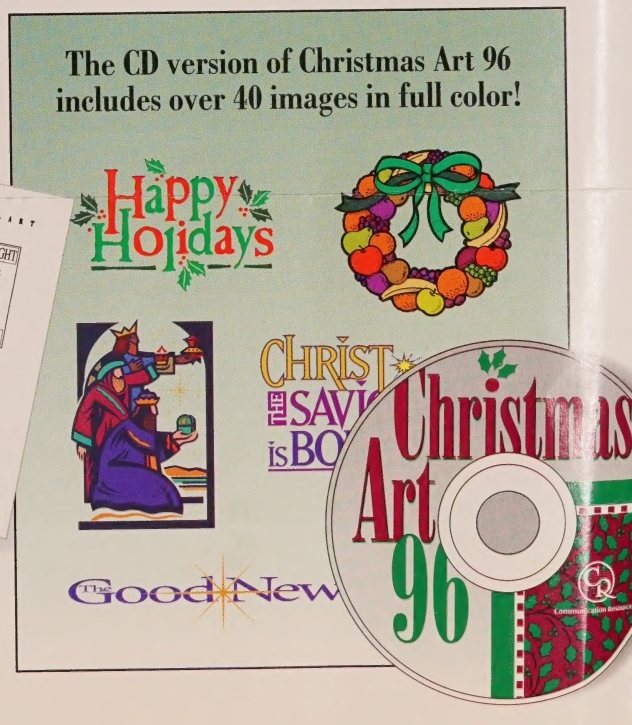

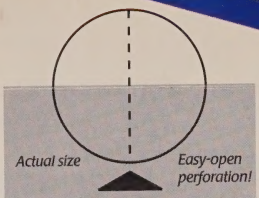

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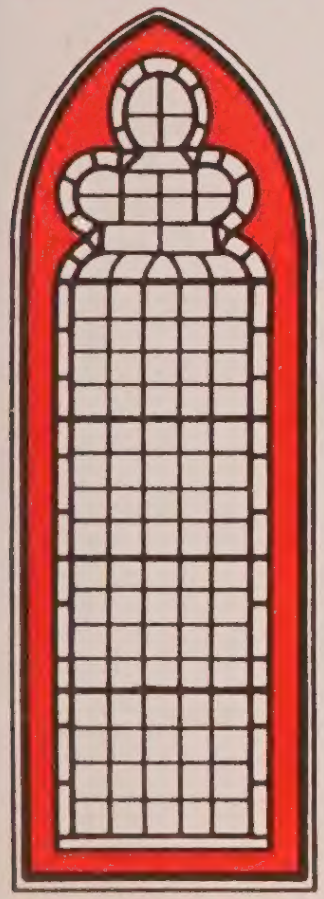

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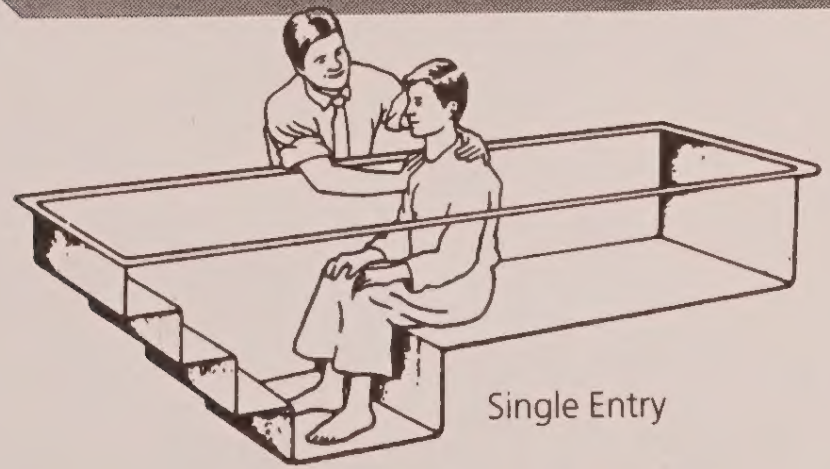

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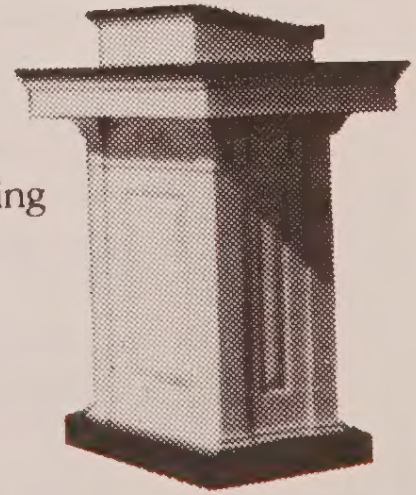

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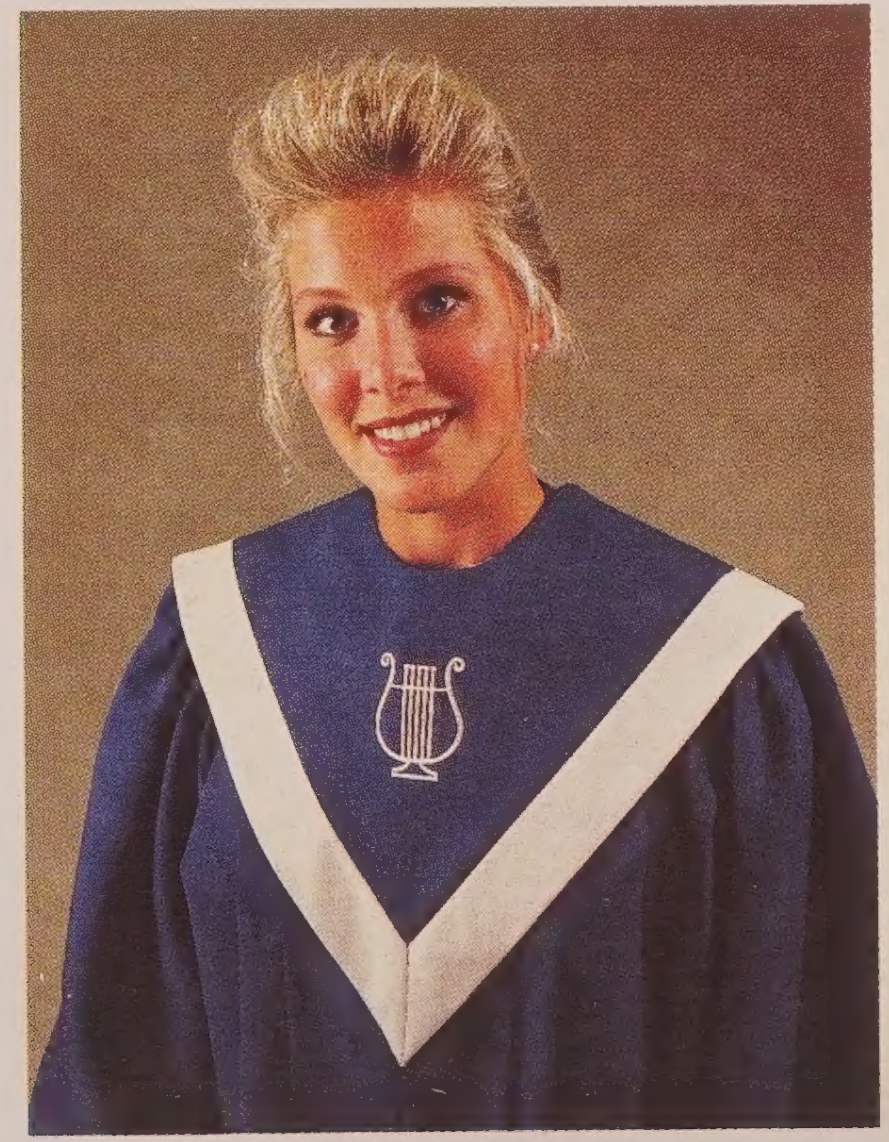

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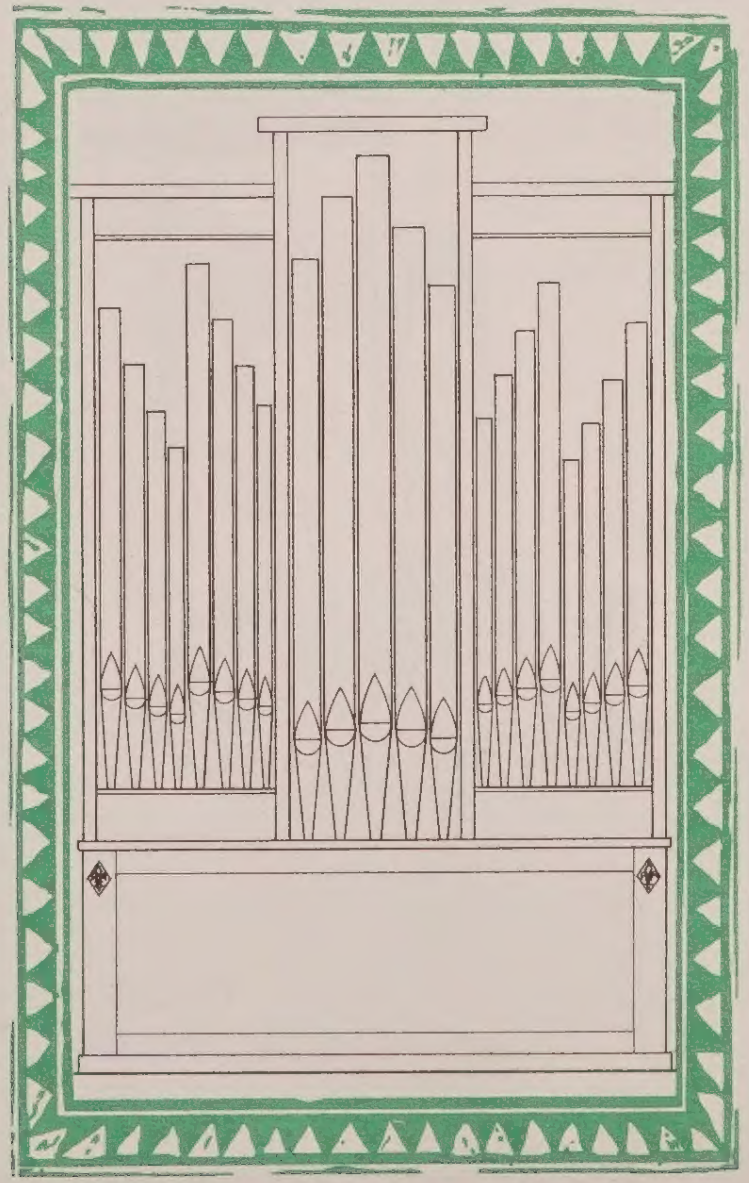

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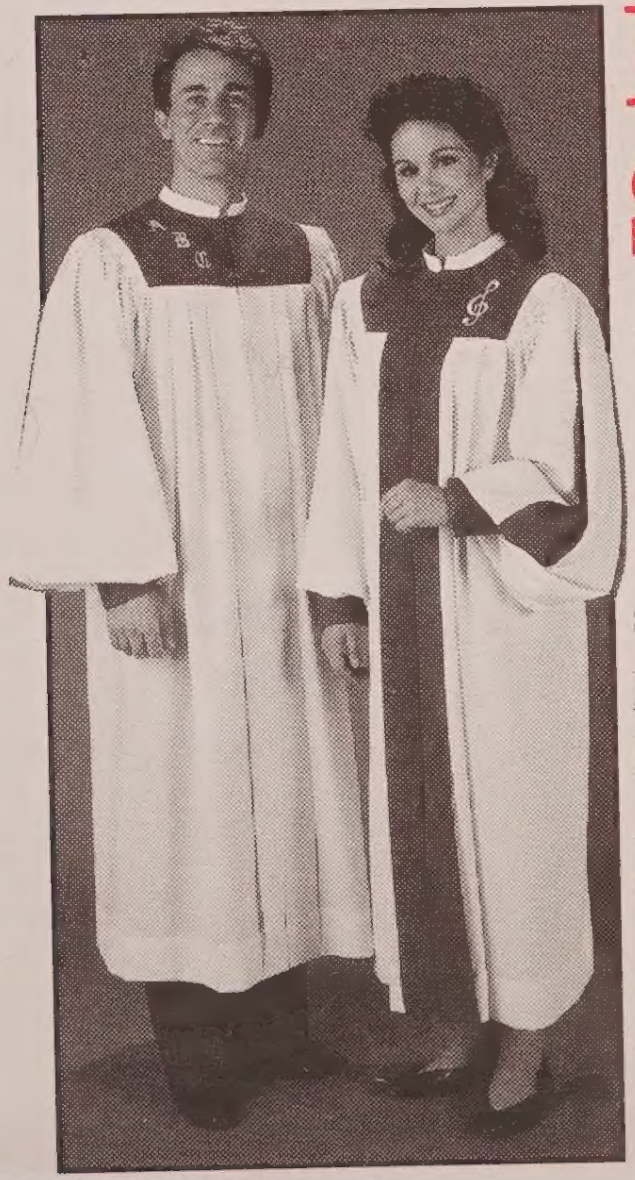

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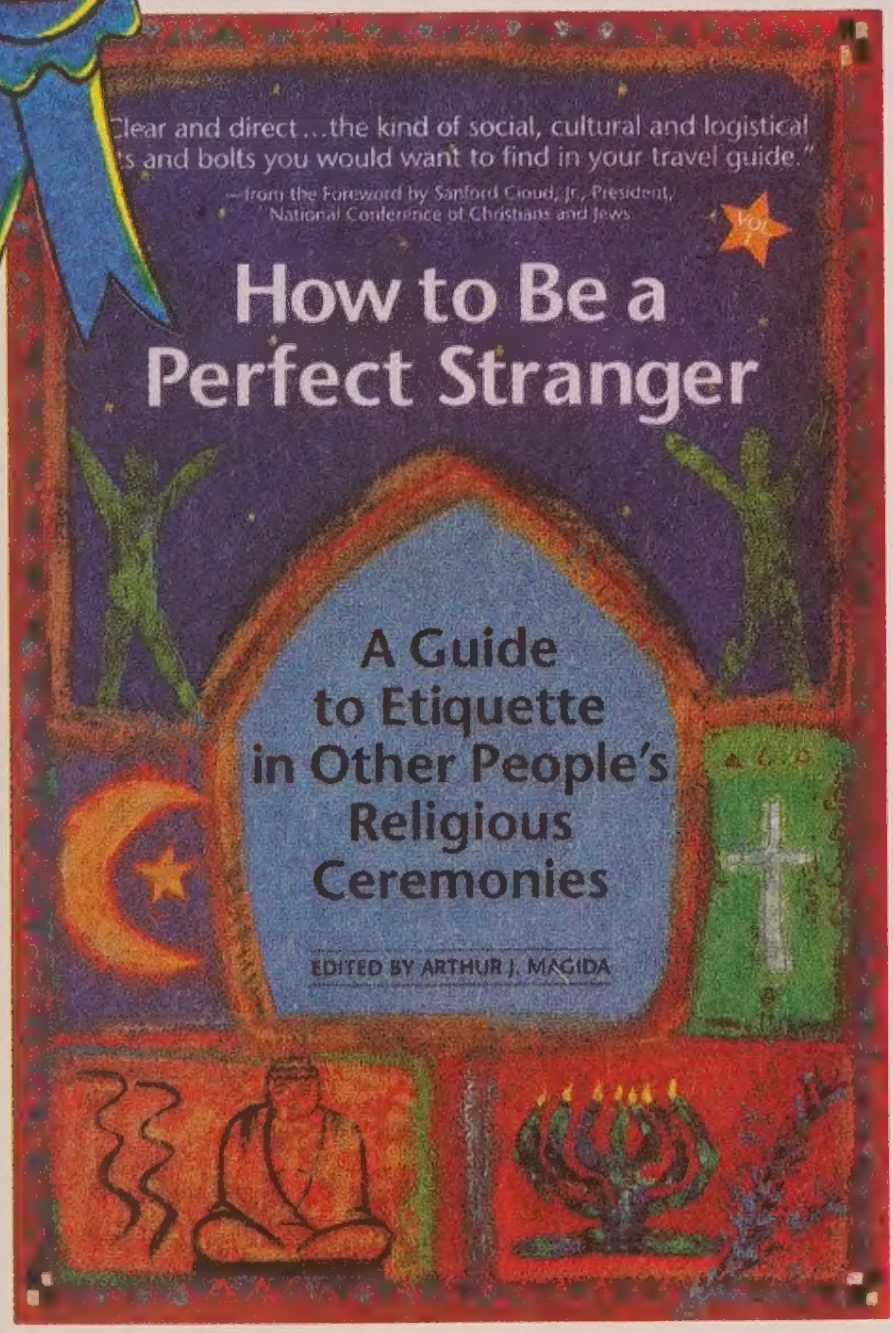

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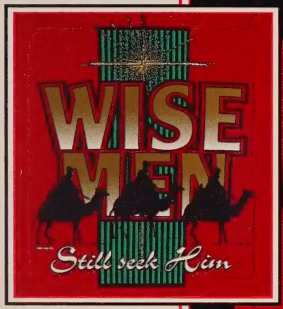

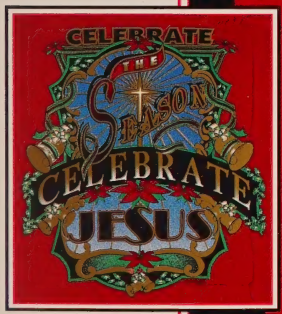

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THE PUBLISHING PUZZLE

Old scissors-and-paste methods give way to today's design software. p.12

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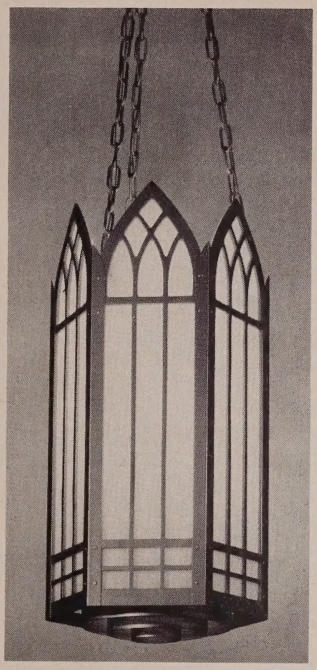

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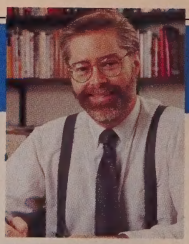

Native Tech-Speak

How much technology is too much? The answer depends on whom you ask. At last count, our article (May-June '96) on personal digital assistants had prompted something on the order of two dozen enthusiastic inquiries asking for more information (see Letters to the Editor). But one reader wrote to say he couldn't imagine why he would ever want a PDA.

A group called the Luddites, named after a 19th-century weaver who fought a losing battle against factory looms, wants to minimize technology—if not ban it all together. Valuing the simple life, they believe less is better. At a recent gathering, the Luddites permitted no cameras, laptops, tape recorders, or microphones. Attendees were told to cup their hands behind their ears for "human-powered" sound amplification.

Imagine giving those instructions to people attending a seeker-sensitive church where leaders attempt to communicate the gospel in ways that will compel society to listen. They believe technology helps them connect with their culture. To reach people for Christ, they don't shrink from using modern tools.

Without electronics and technology, this magazine wouldn't exist. YOUR CHURCH is here to cover innovative methods—computer software, sound and video equipment, management techniques, and so on. Few would care to read about yesterday's technology—blackboards, chalk, and flannelgraph, for example.

Yet, the technology question remains a fair question because every gain comes at a cost. Move to desktop publishing (see pp. 12–25), acquire new publishing capabilities, but pay the price in equipment costs and extra hours.

I like what David Coffin, pastor of a small-town, Ohio church, says: "I run the church with low-tech equipment such as a Bic™ ballpoint pen and legal pads" (LEADERSHIP, Winter 1996). Which is to say we can get along with less. In smaller parishes, we may have little choice.

James Emery White observes that though technology can serve the church, it can never be the tail that wags the dog. White doesn't see this as a problem since most churches are about ten years behind the times. "The gap must be reduced," he says, "for countless others, with decisively non-Christian agendas, are using the latest technology to court the hearts and minds of our generation" (LEADERSHIP, Winter 1996).

I believe the gains of technology generally outweigh the costs. Technology, used appropriately, can help us reach our generation. I wouldn't need a PDA to minister to the Dani tribe in Irian Jaya, where a ballpoint pen would be considered high-tech. We, however, serve different tribes—people who use the latest electronics in their homes and workplaces, people who daily imbibe multimedia images. Among those we want to reach, cutting-edge sound systems, high-resolution TVs, video and computer graphics are common. So let's learn the native language.

Richard Doebler

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forced Exits

I was impressed with "Forced Exits: A Too-Common Ministry Hazard" (March-April '96). Having been a victim of such, I say amen to all that was written. But one all-too-common reason was not mentioned: a little clique decides they want to run the church, and they manage one way or another to get the minister out. [*See May-June '96 report —eds.*] And so I say to ministers still working in a church: do your best, help the Church and your church to grow, and love your people—but never totally trust them as a congregation.

Name withheld by request
Retired pastor
Pennsylvania

The report "Forced Exits: High-Risk Churches" (May-June '96) addresses an important problem. However, it seems that you are addressing only one half of the problem when you gather information only from pastors who have been forced out. It would probably be beneficial to have data from church leadership who have been involved in this process, as well. Believe me, theirs is a different story.

Carolyn Anderson
Lakeland, Florida

My husband and I have read with interest your series on "Forced Exits." Last fall my husband resigned from the church to which he had been called 18 months previously. This was his second pulpit. The cause was a conflict between his way of pastoring and the church council's view. In contrast, his first call, where he did all the things that the second church didn't approve of, had been very successful. Last week a phone call from a member of the parish supported the findings of your article (May-June '96)—that less than half of the congregation knew the real reasons my husband resigned. Your series documents that his experience is not unique, which is some consolation.

Nann Blaine Hilyard
Fargo, North Dakota

On behalf of those who have experienced or researched forced pastoral exits (and I speak for *both* groups), I would like to say thanks for the research work and editorial courage you have shown in covering this important topic. Keep up the outstanding work!

Dr. Rodney Crowell
Author of Musical Pulpits: Clergy & Laypersons Face the Issue of Forced Exits *(Baker, 1992)*
Whitewater, Kansas

PDAs and Pastors

I found your article "The Portable Pastor" (May-June '96) stimulating. Our office uses DOS on a LAN network, and we use WordPerfect Office for calendar, e-mail, etc., and Word Perfect DOS on our LAN for word processing. I carry a Day Timer for calendar and jotting notes, and I duplicate my calendar on our WP Office calendar, and I use the WP Office calendar for my "to do" list. I would like to know:

1. If I got a PDA and used it like I use my Day Timer, can my calendar on the PDA be copied into the Word Perfect Office calendar, or visa versa; or would I have to enter each calendar item into my PDA?
2. Many meetings are repetitive by week or month: can these be entered once for an entire year?
3. Is there a particular PDA which is more compatible with Word Perfect Office for interfacing?
4. How would I cable a PDA to my computer so it would transfer information? And could documents be transferred onto my PDA?

Ken McCaw, Senior Pastor
First United Methodist Church
Kalamazoo, Michigan

I'm a Mac junkie, and I've been looking for an excuse to buy a PDA for a couple of years. As an associate pastor of a large church, I'm in meeting after meeting and need access to information and the ability to take notes once—not take them on paper and later transfer them to computer. I work on a Power PC Mac at home and in the office. My questions are:

1. I don't know that I'm ready to spend $800 on a PDA. Is there a market for used ones?
2. Will the non-Mac brands interface with my Mac word processing?
3. I want handwriting recognition. Any recommendations?
4. Any good programs for these that I can use in ministry?

Bob Johnson, Associate Pastor
Wheaton (Ill.) Bible Church

Bert Latamore replies:

Large office supply chains, such as Staples, carry PDAs, as do some of the large computer chains, such as Incredible Universe, a new chain started by Tandy/Radio Shack. These systems generally cost between $300 and $400. In most cases this does not include Grafitti (handwriting recognition software) or the cabling and software needed to back the PDA up to a PC or Macintosh. Total price of the system: $500 to $600. One exception is the new Pilot 5000 from U.S. Robotics, which was announced after my article was published. This system ($369), which is reviewed in the May 14 issue of PC Magazine, *comes with Grafitti, software, a cable, and a connected cradle to link the PDA with a PC.*

I know of no PDA today that supports WordPerfect Office or Day Timer. However, some software companies have promised interfaces between the more common PC scheduling software and the Pilot 5000. Whether these links will ever materialize, however, remains to be seen.

Repetitive appointments and meetings can easily be entered.

PDAs are usually connected to PCs or Macs through a serial port, using a special cable. If you do not have a serial port available, you may need to add a serial card to your desktop system. The Casio PDA and the Newton both interface with either the PC or Macintosh.

A market does exist for used PDAs, on America Online. To reach the PDA forum, simply use keyword: PDA. This will connect you with a large group of helpful people who can answer technical questions about the various PDAs. It also includes forums run by most of the PDA software vendors and a large library of free software, organized according to the PDA on which it runs.

The standard in handwriting recognition today is Graffiti, which is available for all major touch-screen systems, including PDAs and electronic clipboards.

You can transfer short documents between your PDA notebook function and your PC or Macintosh word processor.

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Usually you have to use an ASCII copy of the document, however. Also, most PDA notebooks only accept fairly short documents. Software may be available on the America Online PDA forum to allow some PDAs to handle longer documents and possibly even to accept formatted documents from desktop word processors.

Darts and Laurels

Thank you for an outstanding March-April '96 issue. When I started pastoring in 1961, YOUR CHURCH appeared in my mail, and ever since it has been a wonderful part of my ministry. This issue, however, is truly exceptional. Each of us continues to update, upgrade, and improve ourselves, and you certainly have kept current.

John Watson, Supervisor
Southwest District of Foursquare Churches
Orange, California

Please remove us from your mailing list. You are wasting your money and polluting the environment by sending this to us. I find your cartoon on communion (May-June '96, p. 71, "In 37 years of ushering, Brother Figwort has never dropped a communion tray") offensive to me and to our Lord. It cheapens the symbol of the terrible suffering Christ went through for our sin. I pray God will convict you of your error.

Ida Van Zwieten
Women in Evangelism
West Chicago, Illinois

I have always found YOUR CHURCH an extremely helpful and insightful aid to my ministry. I find something useful in every issue and in many issues articles that I want to share with the leaders and congregation. Keep up the good work.

Rev. John L. Whitsell
Captain, CHC, U.S. Navy (retired)
Kilgore, Texas

Letters may be edited for space and clarity and must include the writer's name and address. Send your comments to: Editor, YOUR CHURCH, 465 Gundersen Dr., Carol Stream, IL 60188; fax: 708/260-0114. E-mail: YCEditor@aol.com. Letters preceded by ✉ were received online.

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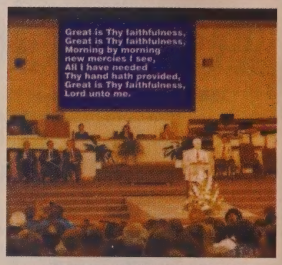

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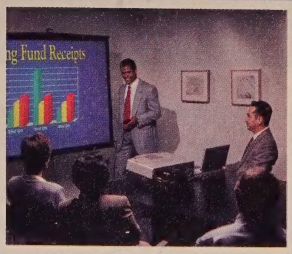

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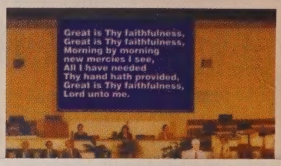

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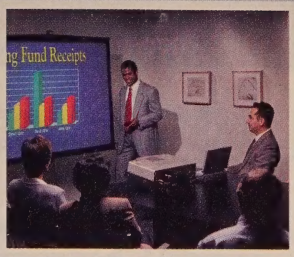

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LAW WATCH

MUSLIM CUSTODIAN? Would a Baptist church have to hire a Muslim as a youth minister if one applied? Most people would agree this is a ridiculous question. But what if a Muslim applied to be church custodian?

Churches and religious organizations may discriminate on the basis of religion for all positions, and they do not have to rely on the "bona fide occupational qualification" (BFOQ) defense available to employers. In other words a church does not need to argue that being a Christian is a bona fide occupational qualification for its custodian.

Why? Because Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and religion, specifically permits churches and religious organizations to discriminate on the basis of religion. Title VII also specifically permits religious educational institutions to discriminate on the basis of religion.

This broad exemption for religious organizations was upheld several years ago at the Supreme Court. This means that church agencies like children's homes can discriminate on the basis of religion for all positions, even such as secretary or custodian.

Julie L. Bloss in The Clergy Journal, *May/June '96.*

"You're probably wondering about that 100 percent deductible part, right?"

QUICK ETHICS TEST

In *Bottom Line/Business* (Sept. 1, 1995), Glenn Coleman, manager of ethics communication and education at Texas Instruments, offers advice that applies to the church office, as well. He writes:

Texas Instruments (TI) teaches its employees to run through these seven steps whenever they have questions about whether a business action is ethical:

1. *Is it legal?* If not, don't do it.
2. *Is it consistent with the company's stated values?* TI has a very clearly stated set of corporate values. Actions that don't fit with them shouldn't be taken.
3. *If you do it, will you feel bad?* If so, there's probably something wrong.
4. *How would it look in the newspapers?* If having people "find out" will be embarrassing, there's a problem.
5. *Do you think it's wrong?* Then don't.
6. *If you're not sure—ask.* Never feel you have to make a decision on ethics by yourself. Get help from others.
7. *If you don't get a clear answer, keep asking until you do.* Don't fudge an ethical problem by saying you "tried" to get help but couldn't. Keep asking—the boss, the company's lawyers, human resources—until you get a clear answer.

WHO'S GROWING

Membership in a number of mainline Protestant denominations continues to decline, according to the National Council of Church's *1996 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.* The biggest mainline decline since last year's edition was suffered by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). It lost 98,630 members, a 2.6 percent drop. The United Church of Christ lost 28,868 members (1.89%), and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), lost 20,373 members (2.13%).

Religious bodies that grew include: the Catholic Church, up 332,563 members (.56%); Southern Baptist convention, up 215,418 (1.4%); Mormon Church, up 93,000 (2.1%); Jehovah's Witnesses, up 19,376 (2.1%); and Seventh-day Adventist Church, up 13,646 (1.8%).

The Roman Catholic Church remained the nation's largest religious body, with 60,190,605 members, followed by Southern Baptist Convention, 15,614,060; United Methodist Church, 8,584,125; National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., 8,200,000; Church of God in Christ, 5,499,875; and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 5,199,048.

Four of the ten largest U.S. denominations have predominantly African American membership: the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc. (8.2 million); Church of God in Christ (5.5 million); National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. (3.5 million), and African Methodist Episcopal Church (3.5 million).

Reported in National & International Religion Report, *4/15/96.*

Q & A

DRAM AIN'T A CUSS WORD

Q: *I want to purchase a new PC with capable graphics and video operation. What does DRAM, VRAM, and WRAM mean in the advertisements?*

A: The PC requires a graphics accelerator board installed inside the computer box to handle the heavy demands of Windows, graphics, and video. The board has its own RAM (random access memory) to take some of the load off the main CPU (central processing unit) chip. The older type of memory is DRAM; the newer, VRAM (Video RAM) and WRAM (Windows RAM), yield better display and operation.

Neil Houk, editor of Church Bytes, *3/96.*

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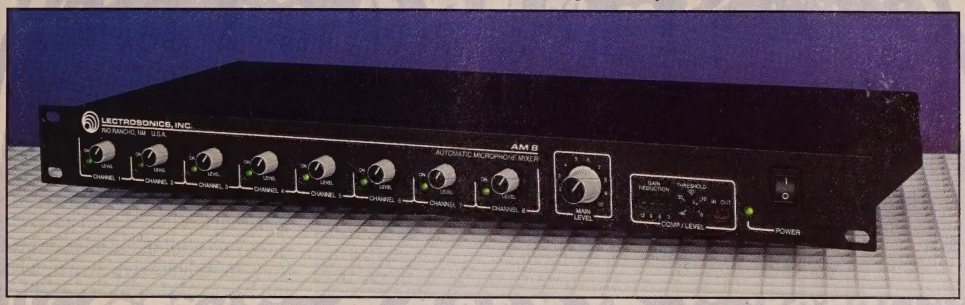

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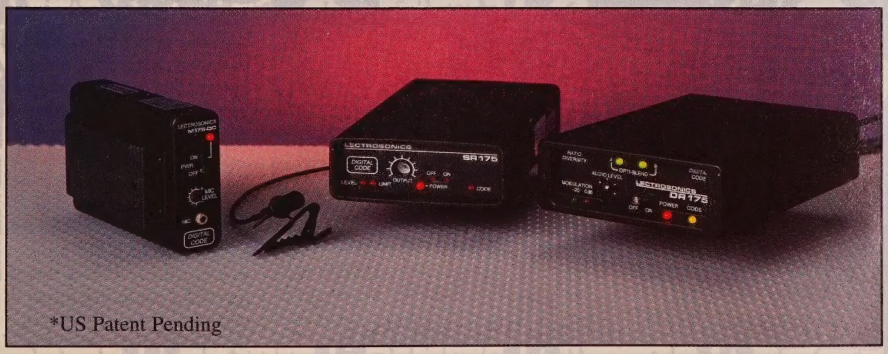

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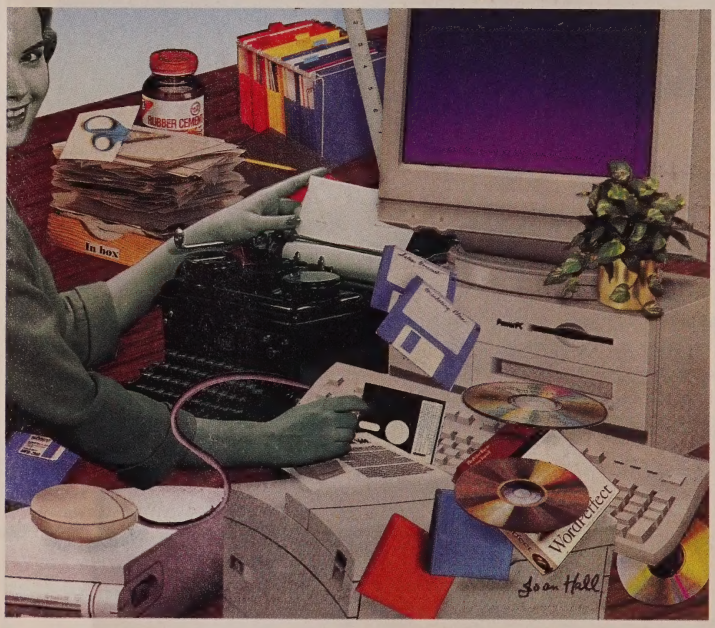
How to choose the right desktop software for your church printing

A Pastor's Publishing Primer

by Wayne Kiser



JOAN HALL

Gone are the days when a church wanting to produce a brochure or newsletter had to choose between spending big bucks at an advertising agency or settling for inferior quality from an in-house typewriter, scissors, and paste. With readily available desktop publishing (DTP) software, churches now can produce sophisticated publications completely in house.

Most churches find that DTP increases their control over their publications. Also, many have gained a shorter turnaround time compared to sending jobs to a designer. Don't overestimate the cost savings of DTP, however. You will still need to pay someone to design and compose the pages on desktop, and that person may not be as well trained as a professional designer. Volunteers are an option, but they don't come free either. They'll need training, supervision, and the necessary time to do the job.

Still, DTP may be an option worth considering. Even churches lacking the necessary equipment and software for DTP may have members or friends with simple systems who can provide a way to experiment with DTP without investing in the upfront cost. If you're wondering what it takes to move into the ranks of DTP users, here is an overview of the software and equipment you'll need.

Hardware: The Bottom Line

If your church owns a computer purchased within the last couple of years, it probably can handle simple desktop publishing applications. The more programs or the larger the programs you

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install, however, the more computer and memory you'll need.

Today nearly 80 percent of word processing is done on IBM compatible PCs, and 80 percent of the graphic arts and design is produced on Macintosh. Experts disagree on which is best, just as car buyers disagree on car brands. When DOS was the only system competing with Macintosh, Mac was the overwhelming choice for graphics and design work. Windows™ has more or less leveled the playing field, and I find the two systems work equally well for small-church situations.

My advice: Use the equipment you already have if it has the capacity to install the applications you need. If you'll be taking your disk to outside service bureaus or printshops to produce film, you'll find that Macintosh has many advantages because files are not always interchangeable between Mac and Windows. Specialized software can transfer material from one platform to the other, but even then you can't expect the typefaces—called fonts—to be interchangeable.

You should be able to find basic PCs to run Windows for about $2,500; new Macintosh clones are about $500 more. (You can, of course, go much much higher.) If you don't load up your computer's hard drive with memory-hogging games, Internet communications' software, and other nondesktop publishing programs, these entry-level prices should accommodate word processing, layout, and illustration applications. If you want to add a photograph application, however, you'll need to spend more for larger equipment.

No matter which computer system you choose, you'll need a laser printer, which will add another $600 to $3,000, depending on the resolution (dots per inch, or dpi), paper size, and quality of the printer. Avoid dot matrix printers; their low dpi produces an image that's not really suitable for reproduction purposes. Entry-level laser printers (300 dpi) are of marginal quality for reproduction—for the same reasons as dot matrix printers. You can find several good 600 dpi printers that give good results for the price. They function well when you'll be reproducing your work with a copier. Higher-resolution printers (1,000 dpi) are becoming popular, but I would consider them only if I intended to use laser-generated pages as originals for a printing press.

If you're going to use many photos, you'll need a scanner. Scanners come in three basic formats—hand scanners, flat-bed scanners, and drum scanners—so you will have to do some comparison shopping to come up with what you need. Avoid hand scanners for anything but basic, low-resolution work. At about $100, they may seem like a low-cost answer for photos, but the quality is poor.

Flat-bed scanners are the scanners of choice for most desktop users. Priced anywhere from $400 to $3,000, they offer a wide range of quality and features. If you scan slides or produce simple four-color work, plan to pay in the $2,000 range.

Alternatives: Purchase your scans from outside sources—typically printshops or service bureaus—at $10 to $25 per photographic scan. Many scans at this rate, however, will soon make a scanner pay for itself. Another route to go: Find a photographic or camera shop that will scan your photos to a disk or CD-ROM. (See article, p. 18.)

Applications

Simple publications can be produced using some of the later word-processing applications. To do more sophisticated publications, you will need to move up to page-layout applications. And if you're going to use photographs, graduated screens, or more contemporary graphic techniques in your publication, you'll need to add illustration and photographic applications.

Don't base your software selection solely on the complexity you'd like for your designs. Also consider your duplication plans. If you plan to reproduce your publications on the church copy machine, word-processing or layout applications offer as much basic quality as you'll be able to use.

Word processing. Many churches produce all their publications with word-processing applications such as WordPerfect or Microsoft Word. In many cases, that's good enough. Pages composed in today's latest word-processing applications and printed on laser printers look as good as the work done on earlier desktop publishers just a few years ago. Word processors offer a variety of type fonts, set text in columns, insert charts or digital clip art, and perform many other functions normally considered the domain of DTP.

Even if you add a page makeup application, you'll still want to use a word processor. Original typing, editing, thesaurus use, and spell checking are the stock and trade of word processing, though some page-layout applications (such as PageMaker 6) are incorporating more and more of these word-processing features.

Word-processing applications sell for between $85 and $300. Although typing can be done in the page-layout program, my suggestion is to purchase a reliable full-service word-processing application such as WordPerfect, WordStar, or MS Word.

Page layout. Most page-layout applications can import material composed in most word processing applications. However, not all page-layout applications and word-processing applications are compatible. Before you buy a page-layout application, check to see what kind of word-processor formats it can import. You'll want one that allows you to transfer files between applications so you can use text created by people with different applications—a good feature for such church publications as newsletters.

Although word processing can handle page layout applications, dedicated applications do it more efficiently. With page-layout you can easily draw rules, boxes, and ovals. You can add tint screens and import graphics and photographs to the pages. You can control the space between lines—called leading—use drop capital letters, and flow text from column to column. You can check the spelling as you would with word processing—a handy feature when you've added last-minute text.

Layout applications provide control panels to perform functions such as setting type specifications, making color choices, and adjusting element placement. They allow you to specify a color in a style palette and apply it from page to page. ☞

COVER STORY
From page 13

Suggestion: Avoid page-layout programs that sell for less than $100. These programs tend to be designed originally for dot matrix printers and are not as flexible as QuarkXPress or PageMaker. QuarkXpress 3.3 and PageMaker 6 sell for between $550 and $650 at most discount computer stores. Upgrades costing about $150 are available each time the manufacturer improves the applications, and some upgrades can be downloaded from the Internet.

QuarkXPress has been the application of choice for most designers who use Macintosh. PageMaker seems to be the favorite for Windows users. Ventura Publisher is another page layout application, but it doesn't seem as widely used. I feel either QuarkXPress or PageMaker will meet your needs, though printers still favor QuarkXPress.

Software that Does More

Page-layout applications can usually handle most work a church does. But if you want to include drawings or photographs in your publications, you'll want to go for more.

Illustration application. An illustration application will allow you to scan photos and drawings, place them in the background on your screen, then trace them. If you wish—and you often will—you can modify the drawings for your purposes. You can color them, rotate them, flip them, and create many special effects.

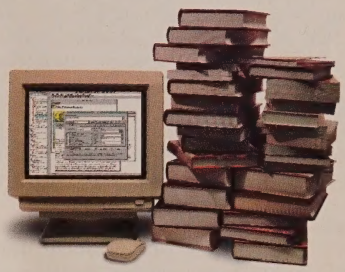
You can also create type, but not as easily as in word processing or page-layout applications. You can, however, do more artistic things with the type you create: you can set it in circles, place it along a curved path, and shade and color it.

Perhaps the feature I personally use most is the illustration application's ability to make graduated tint screens—those that fade from dark to light. I like to mix more than one color in the screens or fade from a point somewhere in the screen rather than from one edge to another. (Some layout applications have similar screening options.)

Once your special effects or illustrations are created in the illustration application, you can save them to be imported into the page-layout application.

Adobe Illustrator, a valuable tool for professional design work, costs about $380 for Mac or $450 for Windows. CorelDRAW is another frequent choice. In my opinion, however, most churches will find that page-layout applications offer enough options to achieve the desired effect. True, an illustration application would allow for greater range of style, but you'll conserve needed hard drive RAM space by limiting yourself to page-layout application. That can be an advantage if your computer is older.

Photographic application. The most-used photographic application is Photoshop. When used with a scanner, Photoshop prepares photographic prints or slides—either black-and-white or color—to be printed or copied. After ☞



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the photo is scanned to the desired size, you can import it into the page-layout application. Most churches can get along without such an application, but it's handy if you want to place photos in your document.

Applications such as Photoshop can correct rips in a photograph, change backgrounds and colors, and add or modify elements within the picture. Separate images can be placed together to look as though the photographer shot the photo that way. Recently I took an antique automobile from one picture, placed it in the foreground of a placid lake scene, added a sun to the corner, added type with a graduated tint, created foliage to fill in along the lake's edge, and changed the car's license plate numbers to reflect my own. It takes time, but it's not all that difficult.

Photographic applications also allow you to correct your color scans (or adjust your greyscale on black-and-white). You'll need to learn new terms and a few formulas to make the best use of the application, but it's worth the effort if you plan to do your own photo work. While low resolution photos (72 dpi) will not print with the quality of traditional halftone photos or high-resolution scans, they will work for low-budget publications.

The price for Photoshop 3.0 is about $560. But remember, it's memory intensive. You'll need to plan to pay for the extra memory you'll need on the computer you choose.

Jumping In

Unless you're a megachurch planning to publish a four-color monthly magazine, you probably won't need all four of these basic applications. In fact, using all the newest and latest hardware accessories and optional software to handle such publishing challenges could cost as much as $15,000. You could, however, publish your megachurch magazine for less. A more-than-adequate system would include a CD-ROM to read CDs containing photos and artwork, a processing speed of 120 MHz, 64 MB of RAM, and one gigabyte of hard-drive space. A computer similar to the Power Mac 8500 will do the job for about $5,500 for hardware and $1,500 for software.

Most churches will find their needs adequately met with only a word-processing application and a page-layout application, requiring only 8 MB of RAM. A hard drive with one gigabyte would still be best. Such a setup would lower costs to about $2,500 for a computer similar to the Performa 6200 Plus or a 486 PC and about $650 for software.

Before you decide to go with DTP, consider who's going to do the work. You can buy the best equipment and software, but that won't make an artist out of someone who has no eye

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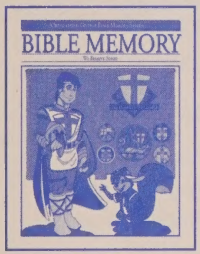

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for design. Conversely, if you find someone skilled in aesthetics, don't expect that person to be able to transition quickly to the computer design world. Using desktop applications does not come automatically. Good work takes understanding, training, and practice. So you'll want to allow time for that person to be trained in the use of the software, beginning with the documentation that comes with the applications. *Suggestions:* Check your local libraries for video training courses that can help you learn to use the software. Also watch for desktop courses at area colleges or workshops at computer stores.

Wayne Kiser is the president of Graphic and Editorial Services and teaches graphic design at Wheaton Graduate School. He lives in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Helpful Books

College courses in desktop publishing often use one or more of these books. Be sure to look for the book appropriate to the version of the software you are using.

Browne, David. *PageMaker 6 for Macintosh*. Berkeley: Peachpit Press, 1996. Similar books are available for Windows.

Nicholson, John R. *Understanding and Using PageMaker*. New York: West Publishing Co., 1994.

Weinman, Elaine, and Peter Lourekas. *Illustrator 5.0/5.5 for Macintosh*. Berkeley: Peachpit Press, 1995. Similar books are available for Windows.

Weinmann, Elaine, and Peter Lourekas. *Photoshop 3 for Macintosh*. Berkeley: Peachpit Press, 1995. Similar books are available for Windows.

Weinmann, Elaine. *QuarkXPress 3.3 for Macintosh*. Berkeley: Peachpit Press, 1994. Similar books are available for Windows.

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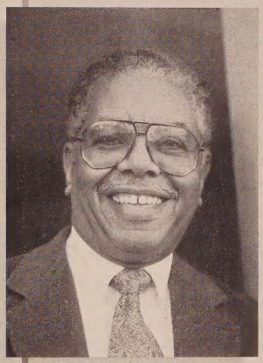

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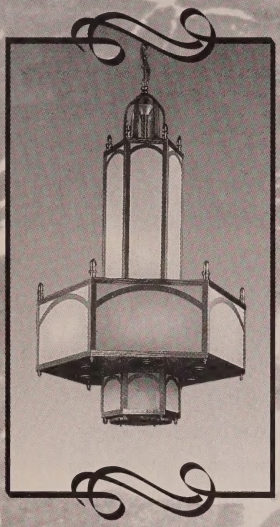

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FEATURE STORY

Quick and easy ways to add photos to your newsletter

Get the Picture?

by Brian Proffit

Try to imagine this magazine containing nothing but text. No matter how exciting the words, pictures can help bring them to life, much as verbal illustrations bring sermons to life. That same logic also applies to your bulletins, newsletters, and flyers. Fortunately, the equipment to allow you to bring pictures to your work has become so much better and less expensive that just about any church can use a personal computer to bring these advantages to their congregation.

What Equipment Do I Need?

There are three basic items you will need: (1) a way to capture pictures in a digital form so computers can use them; (2) a computer to put those pictures together with your words to make a final product; and (3) a printer to get it on paper. Let's start with the computer, since chances are good you already have one in the office to help with your accounting or membership records.

The good news is that digital imaging doesn't require the latest and greatest computer. You may be able to use the one you already have. A 386 computer with 4 megabytes (MB) of memory will do most of the things we'll discuss. Be prepared, though, for some lengthy waits. If you have a computer with a 486 processor (or even better, a Pentium), with at least 8 MB of memory (or even better, 16 MB), you should have no problems. You will also need Windows or a Mac to run most of the programs supplied with the image capture equipment.

Be aware of the amount of space on your computer's hard disk—the place where information is kept after the computer is turned off. While the text in this article will take around 10,000 bytes of disk space, one small color picture may take 30,000 bytes. Larger pictures can take as many as a million. Fortunately, disk drives have become quite inexpensive, and even drives that can hold as much as 2 *billion* bytes (2 gigabytes) can be found, under $300.

Assuming your computer is ready for the task, you next need a way to get your pictures into a form the computer can understand. You can have a service agency scan your photos and put them on disk. Or you can send your film for developing to a company that will do the same thing for a nominal fee. Seattle Film Works puts a 24-shot roll of film on disk for about $4. Kodak CDs (800/CD-KODAK) will digitize your photos for $1–$2 per photo.

There are three basic techniques you can use to prepare digital photos yourself: digital cameras, scanners, and video capture units.

Digital Cameras

Digital cameras look and operate much like regular cameras, except that they are designed to capture images in electronic form instead of on film. When you press the button, the shutter opens and closes as in a regular camera, but

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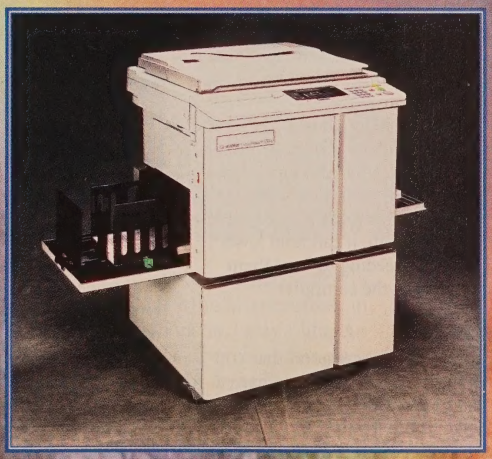

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GET THE PICTURE?

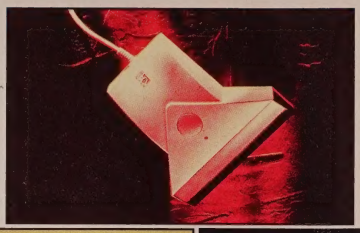
FROM PAGE 18

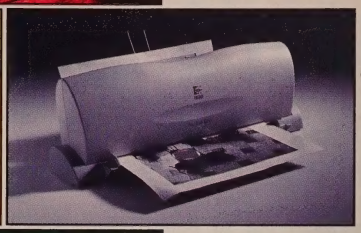
the image is stored in computer memory inside the camera. The camera later plugs into the computer, and the image is copied to your computer's disk drive. The quality of the resulting image is a direct result of the amount of money you're willing to spend on the camera. While top-quality digital cameras sell for tens of thousands of dollars, there are more affordable models available. The best offerings in the under-$1,000 market come from Dycam and Kodak.

Available at around $650, the Kodak Digital Science DC40 camera is as easy to use as point and shoot. The flash is built into the camera, and a cable is included that connects the camera to a serial port; the type of connection that your computer probably already has. The DC40 can hold 48 images before you have to connect it to a computer and transfer them to your disk.

For about $300 more, Kodak offers the DC50, which adds a 3x zoom lens, higher-quality images, and the ability to store images on PCMCIA cards that plug into the camera so you can insert a new card to hold more images. This format is common for peripherals that plug into laptops.

Also ringing in at around $999 is the Dycam Digital Color Zoom 10-C camera. The Dycam offers the advantages of Kodak's DC50 without the inconvenience of a separate PCMCIA card reader. As a result, though, it can hold fewer images before needing to have them copied down to the computer.





Anyone wanting to put photographs into digital format for inserting into desktop files will find a number of options available. Here are just four examples. Clockwise (from the top): the Logitech ScanMan Color handheld scanner, the Logitech PageScan Color scanner, the HP ScanJet 4c flatbed scanner, and the Kodak Digital Science DC40 camera.

Scanners

Of course, chances are good that you already have a camera, and perhaps a number of pictures lying around that you'd like to use if you could just get them into a computer. Scanners allow you to capture normal photographic prints (or just about anything else) in a form the computer can use. Scanners may come with an additional card that you have to install inside your computer, or they may attach to the parallel port in the back of your computer (the same place you plug in your printer).

Scanners come in essentially two types. Handheld scanners are small devices that you manually roll over the top of whatever you want scanned. These are less expensive and take up far less desk space than flatbed scanners. On the other hand, the size of objects you can scan is limited. In general, handheld scanners are unable to capture images wider than around four inches. They usually come with programs that allow you to scan first the left side and then the right side of an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper, combining the two scans into a single image. Unless your hand moves perfectly straight, though, chances are you won't be happy with the results of stitched images.

Flatbed scanners look more like copying machines, where you lay the items to be scanned onto the glass plate. They're great for scanning larger items and don't suffer from the waviness that can be introduced by jittery hands using handheld scanners. On the other hand, they're more expensive and take a lot more desk space.

Actually, there's a third type of scanner that is a combination of the first two. Page scanners take up very little desk space and remove the width and jitter problems of handhelds by providing a small unit that feeds a single page through automatically. If you're trying to scan bound material, such as a page from a book, the scanning bar on some models can be picked up and placed on top of the book. It then moves itself on rollers across the page, scanning as it goes. Perhaps the best of these is the Logitech PageScan Color. At less than $400, this can be an excellent compromise solution.

One final note: you can save money on scanners if you're certain you're never going to print color images. A scanner that can create images with 256 different shades of gray is less expensive than a scanner that can resolve 256 different colors.

Video Capture Units

The third option for acquiring pictures is to take advantage of another camera you may already have: a video camera. Video capture units usually take the form of a card that you install inside your computer. The card has places in the back where you plug in video cables, just like you connect a VCR to a television. In this case, though, you connect your camera or VCR directly to your computer. As you play back a tape, you can see the image on your computer screen and capture images (or even movies) from the video. For

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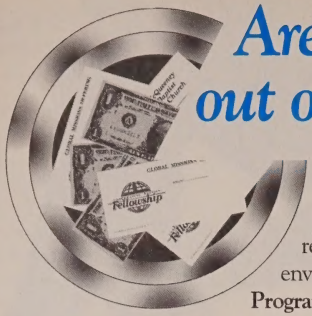

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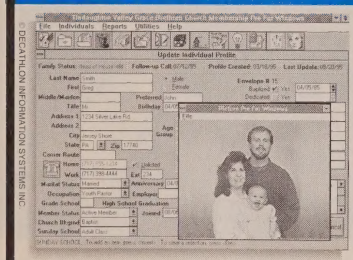

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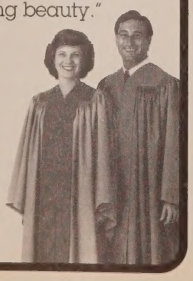

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From page 20

around $250, cards such as ATI's Video-IT and Creative Labs' Video Blaster give you the option of bringing video images into your computer. Unfortunately, though, the quality usually isn't as good as that from a digital camera or scanner.

A simpler option is the Snappy Video Snapshot from Play, Inc. This device plugs into the parallel port so you don't have to open your computer. And at less than $200, it provides better images than most video capture cards. It includes software to help freeze the action from moving images, removing a lot of the fuzziness common with video capture cards.

Printer

Once you've got the image and used your word processor to create a mailer, you need to print it. Printer technology has come a long way in recent years. For as little as $350, companies such as Canon, Epson, Hewlett-Packard, Okidata, and Tektronix are putting color printing power on desktops that used to exist only in major publishing houses.

A key factor to consider when buying a printer is its resolution. Printed output is made up of a lot of incredibly small dots—the more dots you cram into a small space, the smoother the final image will appear. You should consider a printer capable of at least 300 dots per inch (dpi). Even better is 600 dpi or more.

Color is optional, of course, and you can save a little money and gain faster printing speeds by going to a black-and-white printer. Since grayscale images don't have color's vividness, I would consider 600 dpi a minimum for a black-and-white printer, to make sure your documents retain their impact.

In an environment filled with slick advertising, you'll want to do the best you can to catch people's attention. That's why adding photos to your bulletins, programs, and newsletters is such an attractive option.

Brian Proffit is a freelance writer and adviser to PC Magazine. *He lives in Boynton Beach, Florida.*

Don't just process words—design them

Moving to Desktop Publishing

by Yvon Prehn

Desktop publishing (DTP) demands the skills of an editor, designer, typesetter, and production manager. How smoothly you transition to desktop depends on how you approach the challenge. Your office staff could feel overwhelmed, but they don't have to. Here are five steps to produce your first DTP work, turning frustration into enthusiasm along the way.

Take Enough Time

The first step is the most tempting to skip. But if you don't take enough time to learn the program, you'll be doomed to continual frustration. Desktop publishing programs are not intuitive. They are quite different from word-processing programs. Though they offer potential to do so much more than word processing, they'll only cause headaches if you don't learn to use the tools available. People who think they don't have time to learn to use the new program end up wasting much more time later. *Bottom line:* If you don't have time to learn the program, don't buy it.

Here are four ways to start:

1. Go through the tutorial that comes with the program. Tutorials are getting better all the time. Microsoft Publisher has a great on-line tutorial that walks you through each step.

2. Read the manual. Even if you no more than skimmed the manual, at least you'd know what sections it contains when you need help later.

3. Take a class. If at all possible, attend a class conducted by a person experienced in using the program. Computer store classes tend to be quite expensive; try instead the local junior college or adult or senior education program.

4. Watch a video. Another good source for training is training videos. These work especially well for churches because one purchase allows the entire staff and volunteers to learn on their own pace at their own convenience.

Prepare a Template

This second step, like the first, requires more effort at the beginning than it will later. However, your initial pains will ease your load every time you redo your publication.

Let's say you're planning to produce a church newsletter. Before starting anything else, set up your template or basic layout by answering several key design questions:

- Will your publication have two or three columns?
- How many pages will it have?
- Do you want to include graphics, photos, or other art elements?

You can custom create a template yourself or you can choose a template that comes with your desktop publishing software—a far easier way to go for those first starting out with DTP. All you'll need to do is add your own content to the template.

Two rules of thumb will help guide your use of a template or basic layout:

1. Match the look of the template to the image of your ministry. A general church newsletter should reflect the spirit of the church. If you are a traditional, uptown church, perhaps a standard three columns with limited use of clip art would be appropriate. If you are creating a newsletter for a children's ministry, two wide columns with lots of room for clip art might be better.

Think like a marketing director. You want the ad (your newsletter) to represent your product (the ministry or church you are promoting).

2. Stay consistent. Stick with the same template for at least a year. Quality publications don't change their basic layouts every month. Express your creative urges by changing the monthly content in fresh ways—within the template design you've selected. Keeping a template consistent for a time not only makes your publication look more professional, it also makes it easier to produce. *Bonus:* Its familiar appearance will help establish its identity with your readers. You want them to view your publication as a welcome friend.

Choose Fonts

The third step of the DTP process expands your design as you select the style of type you'll want to use. Unlike word processing, which requires that you wrestle with word selection and deal primarily with content, desktop publishing requires decisions about type style, size, and layout appearance. Going beyond the content of the words themselves to the way they appear on a page introduces new problems. Anticipate those

MOVING TO DESKTOP PUBLISHING

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problems by setting a few ground rules for yourself and communicating them to your staff:

1. Establish firm deadlines. Before you begin the work of laying out the publication, all the articles planned for the issue should be in. Set a firm deadline and stick to it or you'll find yourself frequently backtracking, redoing the layout again and again.

2. Limit changes. Develop an understanding with those supplying the content for your publication. It should be edited before you start putting it into the layout. Once you've struggled to make an article fit its allotted space, you don't want the writer to add three paragraphs of information omitted from the first version.

3. Maintain a familiar look. Put regular features or departments in a consistent location. This will help your readers find the information they want quickly without the frustration of spending time each issue trying to find their favorite features.

4. Be conservative. Stick with standard, conservative typefaces for newsletters and other text-heavy publications. *Suggestions:* Times, New Times Roman, Arial, Helvetica, Century Schoolbook, Lucinda, Goudy, or similar fonts. In text-intensive documents, you don't want readers distracted by your typeface.

Remember that large or bold type is equivalent to shouting on paper. Use such type sparingly. Headlines, subtitles, and callouts can be set in larger type since they summarize your main points and work to pull your readers into the text by teasing them with provocative information.

Script typefaces are best saved for invitations and announcements. They appear unprofessional in headlines. Unjustified (or ragged-right) text is easier to read and looks less formal than justified text.

Select Illustrations and Photos

The next step in the DTP process is to add photos and illustrations to your text. A picture won't be worth a thousand words if you select the wrong one or use it improperly. *Tip:* Ask yourself what idea a particular image conveys. Make sure your illustration reinforces the message of the text. If it causes the reader to expect something else, you've confused the issue instead of strengthening it. Art should illustrate the message of the text or set a mood that provides context for the theme.

For example, why insert a drawing of a cross or a church to illustrate the pastor's column? Other art may be more appropriate. Read the column to discover its theme. If the pastor is writing about victory in Christ, for example, look for an image that depicts victory—someone reaching a mountain peak or perhaps a runner crossing a finish line. *Suggestion:* Don't limit yourself simply to "art-in-a-box." Try creative applications such as enlarging the image and printing it in a gray tone behind the article, taking care not to make the text hard to read.

You'll want to check the following ideas for other art basics:

1. Put captions with your photos. Since photos catch the reader's eye, captions typically are read. And if your caption captures your reader's attention, you'll provide another point of entry into the article.

2. Face the middle. Position your clip art or photo subjects so that they look toward the center of your publication. This will help carry the eyes of your readers into the publication.

3. Be style conscious. Aim to use the same style of clip art throughout an issue of the newsletter. When you do, you'll bring more consistency to your publication.

4. Wrap text carefully. Wrapping text around a piece of clip art or other illustration can cause oddly spaced words in narrow-text columns. Also keep in mind that wrapped text tends to look better in unjustified text columns.

5. Don't forget text-font dingbats. Font software typically offers dingbats or picture fonts along with text. These can be quick-and-easy sources of illustrations. The little crosses,

Pastor Bergquist found it often helped to imagine his church as a sit-com.

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boxes, and other shapes can be printed as large as your printer will go. If you assign colors to them, your black-and-white printer will read shades of gray. In addition, you can apply type styles to the images—outline, shadow, or reverse—giving you a greater range of possibilities.

Pick Your Paper

What you choose to print on can make or break your publication. No matter how well you do with layout, type, and illustration selection, your newsletter will only be mediocre if you select the wrong paper. And while you can't escape the realities of budget constraints, you still will have options in every price range. Paper tips:

1. Black print on white paper is the most readable. Why? Because black on white provides the highest contrast. Some colored papers, especially when used with colored ink (blue ink on gray paper, for example), are harder to read.

2. Keep colored stock consistent. If you do go with a colored paper, don't change colors from issue to issue. Color consistency looks professional.

3. Consider preprinted colored brochure shells or papers. This is a fun way to dress up your special projects. And you can do it for much less than paying for four-color printing.

Moving from word processor to desktop publisher is more complex than simply opening a new box of software. Start with the steps outlined here, but don't think this is all you'll need. Art designers study for years to learn their profession and then continually sharpen their skills. You'll want to do the same thing. Read books and design magazines, keep a sharp eye for what others are doing, collect ideas and resources, and take further training to learn about publishing design.

Yvon Prehn conducts seminars on desktop publishing and publishes a bi-monthly, 12-page newsletter called Desktop Publishing and New Media in Ministry *(cost: $36/year). Call her at 817/861-9535, or write: Ministry Computing Resources, P.O. Box 202730, Arlington, TX, 76006.*

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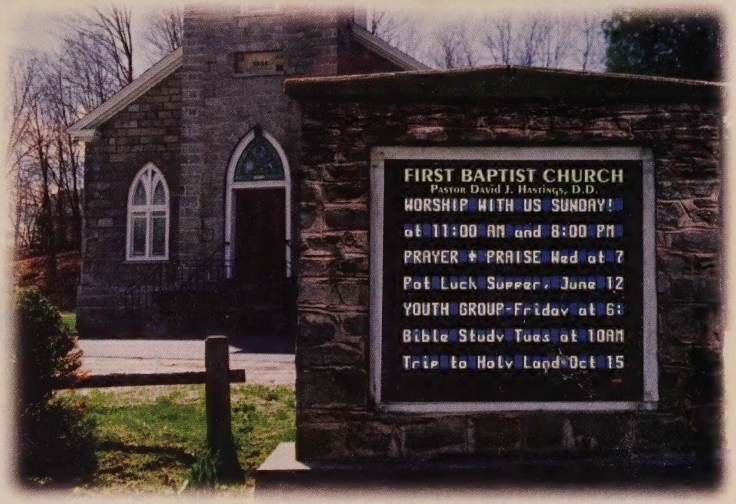

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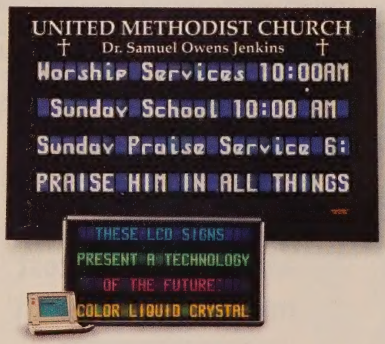

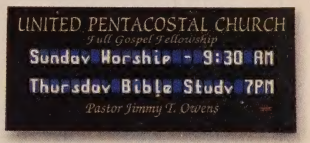

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Power up without crashing your budget

How to Afford Computer Upgrades

by Nick B. Nicholaou

Your most important software provider just released a major update, and you're excited. Many of the features you've been wanting have been added. There's only one problem: None of the computers in your ministry office has the power or memory the upgrade requires.

This story is repeated too often in ministry after ministry. We find ourselves priced into corners from which we can't escape. Then we begin to scramble, looking for a budget pocket we can tap, or a generous donor who might help. There is a way to avoid this trap.

The Challenge

Computer hardware and software are changing so fast it's even hard to keep up with the new terminology. Remember when all you had to know was PCs, XTs, and ATs? Now you need to know about Pentiums, Pentium Pros, PCI, PCMCIA, RAM, DRAM, IDE or SCSI hard drives, interlaced or non-interlaced monitors, and more. You may be forgiven for asking if this is really what God called you to do.

Hardware capabilities are developing fast. If you can buy it, it's already obsolete. Software is always at least a full step behind hardware. Now the trend appears to be *annual* releases of the software we love. Don't think "Windows 95" was an accident. Some industry insiders believe that software publishers have discovered what the auto industry did decades ago: Folks are willing to budget a portion of their income to "keeping up with the current model year," even though what they have still works.

Reality

How can you keep up with it? You *can't*—and you don't need to. Hardware and software specs are going to continue to change rapidly. The fastest and most powerful hardware is always going to cost more than it's worth. But knowing that in advance can help you develop a purchasing strategy that will keep your power users supplied with up-to-date equipment.

The fastest and most powerful hardware is always going to cost more than it's worth

Budget permitting, when purchasing a home computer, get the most powerful one available with as much memory and storage capacity as possible. In fact, home computers should be purchased with overkill in mind. Why? Because it is a *major* investment. That computer will probably need to serve owners for five years or more. As such, buying lots of power and memory up front will make it viable for a longer time. If you don't buy it big, fast, and powerful, it may not be upgradeable when you need more.

Corporations, however, can't usually afford to replace entire computer systems or all of their workstations at once. The price tag is too great. Instead, corporations budget to replace their oldest and slowest computers at the rate of 20 percent each year. New computers should typically go to those with the most demanding computer needs—accounting, database, and graphics—and their old computers moved to less demanding roles (word processing and data entry). Thus, all of the computers will have been replaced in five years, but the strategy allows you to maximize your computer-buying dollar.

The Leasing Question

Some, to automate the process, prefer to lease their computer equipment. However, the cost of leasing can be high, with computers sometimes costing as much as double what they would if purchased. As a result, this is not a good option, with perhaps two exceptions:

1. If replacing equipment is usually an emotionally and politically charged issue in your organization, leasing makes great sense. Because there's no ownership, it helps those who believe that replacing computers is poor stewardship to let go, and that will empower ministry.

2. If your organization needs to make a large purchase that it can't afford, sometimes leasing is a tool that can help. Some argue that it's nothing

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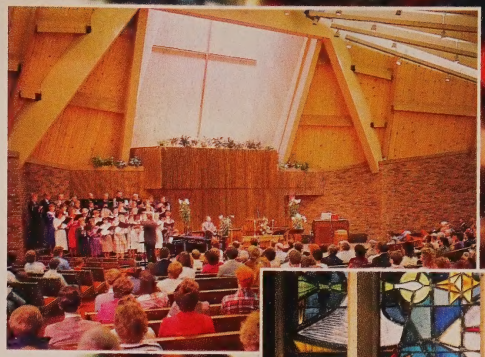

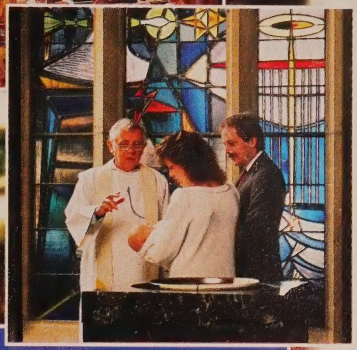

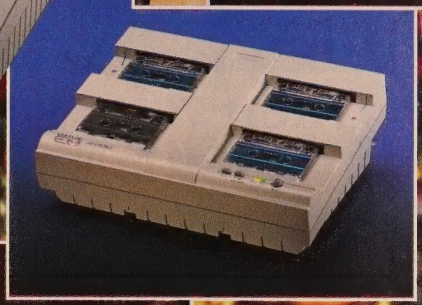

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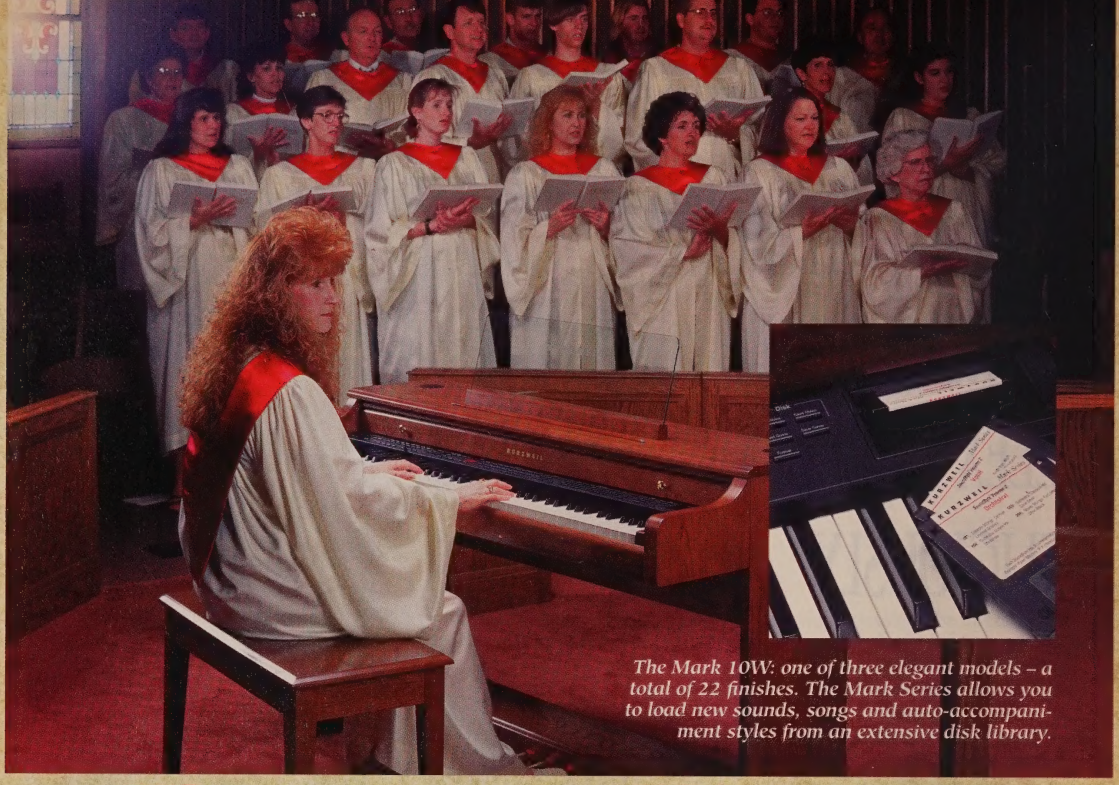

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From page 26

more than a way of buying on credit, and they're right. But again, if it truly empowers the team for greater ministry, it may be appropriate. Only you and your leadership team can decide whether this is an option you should consider.

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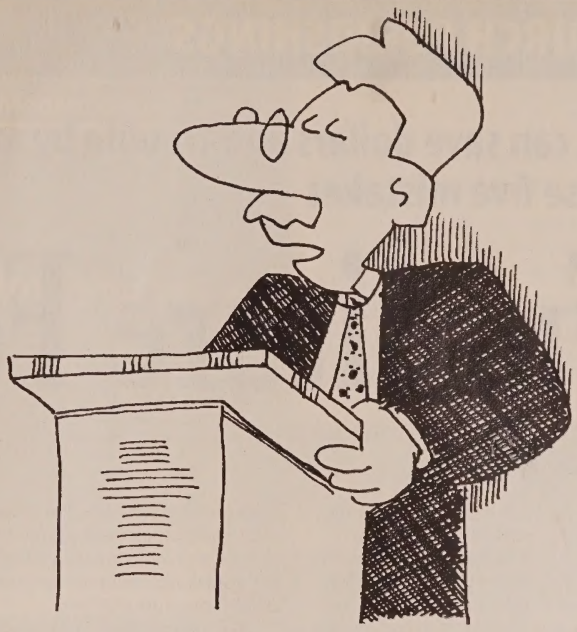
Nick B. Nicholaou is president of Ministry Business Services (www.mbsnet.com) in Huntington Beach, California. He and his team serve as ministry management consultants and may be reached at 714/847-4545 or by e-mail at nick@mbsnet.com.



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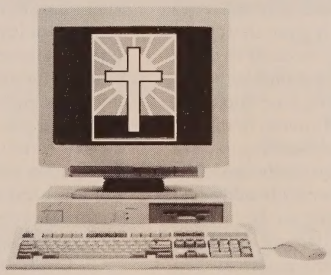

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You can save dollars and trouble by avoiding these five mistakes

Furniture Follies

by Mark Rowh

If you haven't bought office furniture lately, you probably will soon. And while obtaining furniture does not require complicated research (as in buying computers, for instance), common mistakes people make in the process can lead to disappointment and extra expense. Here are some of the most common errors you'll want to avoid when purchasing furniture for your church office.

1. Failing to compare. When most people shop for personal items, they routinely compare the quality and prices of various brand names and outlets. But in church settings, too often this step in the buying process is given short shrift.

Although it may be easier to deal exclusively with a local merchant or a single supplier, taking time to compare can save money. Of course, finding time to compare requires planning to buy before an item is absolutely needed. (See mistake number 2.) In addition, comparison shopping can be instructive. You may find items of which you were unaware before you started shopping. If you discover just the right piece for a special need, you'll benefit in ways other than merely saving money.

The recent rise of office "superstores" has provided new options in furniture selection—at least in areas such as desks, office chairs, and computer furniture. Not only have such stores lowered the costs from those you'll find in many traditional stores, but some items can be bought at even lower, rock-bottom prices if you are willing to assemble them.

Of course, this is not desirable for higher-quality furniture. But even with more elaborate pieces, it pays to visit several stores or look through catalogs before making a commitment to any significant furniture purchase.

2. Failing to plan. Furniture does not deteriorate overnight (assuming, that is, that you have your youth group under control). Since the lifetime of most furniture is measured in years if not decades, there is no real excuse for letting furniture needs become a pressing problem—forcing other mistakes.

To make sure this doesn't happen in your church, develop a written plan for taking care of furniture needs. First, conduct an inventory of all existing furniture and assess its condition. Then estimate future needs based on your inventory and analysis. Finally, outline a multi-year plan that meets those needs for new furniture. Planning ahead in this fashion will head off budgetary problems and allow furniture needs to be spread over time instead of requiring special or emergency attention.

3. Crowding. As churches grow, crowding more equipment and furniture into tight spaces often becomes a problem. Fortunately, contemporary furniture designs address this issue nicely. The result? The modern worker doesn't need an abundance of space in order to work productively. If your space becomes limited, the right choices in furniture can help make the most of available facilities.

Roomy desk tops, for instance, sound good. But for most desk designs, added space comes at the expense of reduced floor space. Especially in modest-sized offices, combining the wrong desk with other office furniture results in a cluttered, hemmed-in feeling. For cramped quarters, consider using smaller desks with desktop organizers or wall-mounted shelves that will complement your desk space.

The same issues are true of filing space. Storing many files may be an asset in maintaining information, but filing cabinets quickly eat up space. Before you purchase new cabinets, sift through your old files and clean out those that are no longer necessary. Then, put a limit on the number of cabinets you can accommodate. Or consider buying furniture that combines both storage and utilitarian functions. *Example:* Some printer stands double as storage units.

Often church office furniture may be a hodgepodge of pieces purchased by different individuals or donated by church members or other well-meaning folks. This can exacerbate the crowded space problem. *Recommended:* Don't simply add new furniture to existing pieces. Instead, evaluate how the new and the old can be used in a complementary fashion.

Suppose you have obtained a new computer and now want to purchase a computer and printer stand. Instead of crowding new furniture into an office already containing a traditional desk, consider scrapping the old design and replacing it with a new, space-efficient computer desk that combines the functions of your traditional desk with those of a computer and printer stand.

Even if you're fitting a room with all new furniture, avoid the temptation to overdo things. Results will be better if

you leave plenty of floor space and maintain an open, uncrowded environment.

4. Holding to rigid thinking. The fact that old furniture must be replaced doesn't necessarily mean that new items must duplicate it. A little creative thinking can go a long way in adding efficiency. Consider, for example, the advantages of modular furniture that allows you to combine different elements to meet individual needs.

Caution: When selecting office furniture, don't overlook the importance of ergonomics with its emphasis on safety and comfort in the work place. Office workers in any setting, including churches, should be protected from threats to their health or comfort. For instance, computer users should have desks that provide adequate wrist support to help avoid carpal tunnel syndrome. In all purchases, safety as well as comfort should be considered. *Bonus:* Comfortable, healthy workers will be more productive.

5. Making unilateral decisions. Purchasing furniture may be handled in any number of ways, depending on a given church's policies and procedures. In some settings, a committee may be charged with this task. In others, the pastor may take primary responsibility. In any case, try to avoid making decisions without consulting the potential users.

Certainly, you can't take a vote of every church member when it comes to obtaining furniture, but primary users should be included in the decision-making process. Secretaries or other office support staff, for example, should assist in selecting furniture used for administrative or clerical functions.

Involving employees or volunteers in selecting furniture can be a win-win situation. Not only do members of the church family appreciate being consulted, but group efforts can help avoid the perception that one person's individual tastes dominate.

Mark Rowh is a freelance writer and contributing editor for Office Systems *magazine. He lives in Dublin, Virginia.*

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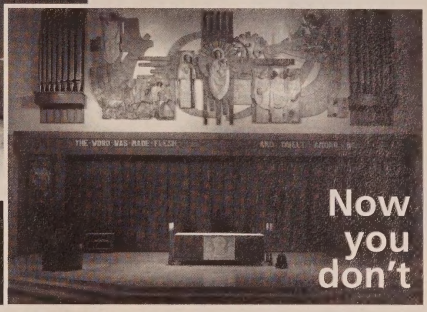

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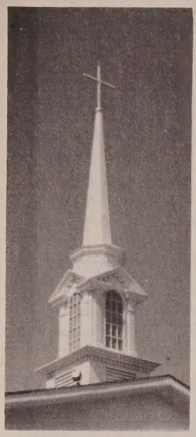

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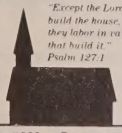

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Seven practical tips for ...

Lowering Your Utility Bills

by Andrew Rudin

Given a choice, churches would rather invest their money in people than in utility costs. Here are seven ways to reduce your church's energy bills:

Don't pay state sales tax. Some states exempt congregations from paying state sales tax. If you live in such a state, the invoices from each utility and fuel supplier will show if you are being charged sales tax by mistake. This can happen if a congregation fails to renew its exemption. In Philadelphia, for example, about 30 percent of congregations pay state sales tax on natural gas and about 20 percent pay it on electricity.

If your congregation has tax-exempt status, you may be entitled to a credit or refund for taxes paid by mistake. Some states will return up to three years of mistaken tax payments. That can add up to quite a sum of money—available just by paying closer attention to the energy invoices.

Request bids on heating fuel. Unlike natural gas or electricity, fuels like propane and fuel oil are still sold in a relatively unregulated market. Congregations often continue to purchase fuels from the same suppliers each year without requesting competitive bids. Some suppliers purchase fuels in advance on the commodity exchange when they think fuel prices are low. Bear in mind that their cost may be fixed, so it's fair to ask for a fixed price.

By contrast, dealers who do not purchase fuel on the commodity exchange buy from wholesale suppliers. Their prices will fluctuate depending on the market. These prices are published each business day in the *Journal of Commerce.* The *Journal* lists three prices for fuel oil—a high price, a low price, and one in between. When you can't get a dealer to give your congregation a fixed price, ask the fluctuation to be based on the low price as posted in the *Journal.*

Buy gasoline without paying taxes. If your church runs a school and buys fuel for its vehicles, you may be able to reduce your fuel bill. Nonprofit educational organizations do not have to pay federal excise taxes on gasoline, which is over 18 cents per gallon. The government defines an organization as exempt if it has a regular schedule, faculty, and curriculum. Daycare programs often qualify according to this definition.

To apply for an IRS exemption, you will need to submit Form 637. To apply for a refund of up to three years of past excise taxes paid, you will have to file forms 843 and 4136. The phone number to order forms from the IRS is 800/829-1040.

Shop wisely for natural gas. There are up to three different ways to purchase natural gas. The most common way is called *fixed gas,* which means the price is fixed and the supply is more or less guaranteed.

A second way is to purchase *inter-*

ruptible gas, which usually costs less. When it is very cold outside, the utility may ask you to switch to some alternative fuel, such as fuel oil. This means that your heating system has to be able to burn two different fuels in order to qualify for this rate.

A third way is to purchase *transportation gas,* usually through a gas marketer who bargains for less expensive gas with companies that own gas wells. You use the same pipes and meters as before, but you are charged less because your marketer is making deals at the wellhead. Various marketers offer differing degrees of risk. Some marketers, for example, charge much more for gas used when it is very cold. Sometimes the meter charges during the summer are so high that transportation gas doesn't make economic sense. Other times, congregations save a bundle on their gas bills.

Economize on your electricity. Purchasing electricity can present many confusing options. Commercial rates charge not only for the amount of electricity you use (kilowatt-hours or kWh), but also for the maximum demand for power drawn from the utility, measured in kilowatt-hours per hour (kilowatts or kW). Most residential electric rates do not have this demand charge. Some electric utilities offer congregations a choice between commercial rates and residential rates. Which one is best for you has to be calculated for your situation.

There are, however, still other factors to consider. For example, there is more than one kind of commercial electric rate. Many utilities offer lower-cost rates for electrically heated buildings. Most offer discounts to congregations whose peak demand occurs when the utility has spare capacity, such as on weekends or late at night. You still pay for the electricity usage, but the cost is less because the use is off-peak. The off-peak electric rate in Philadelphia saves many in the religious community thousands of dollars each month.

Electric utilities sometimes offer rates based on relatively low usage. For example, PECO Energy has a lower cost rate for commercial accounts that uses less than 1,100 kWh per month.

If your congregation is paying demand charges, the cost for electricity can be lowered by reducing the peak demands. For example, the power to an electric water heater can be timed so that it does not coincide with other uses of electricity, like lighting or air conditioning. The heating element operates off peak, but you get to use the heated water from the storage tank during on-peak times. Similarly, the compressors in oversized air-conditioning systems (most are oversized) can be interlocked to avoid coincident operation.

If your congregation uses a lot of fluorescent lighting, you may be penalized for poor power factor caused by all the windings in the ballast transformers.

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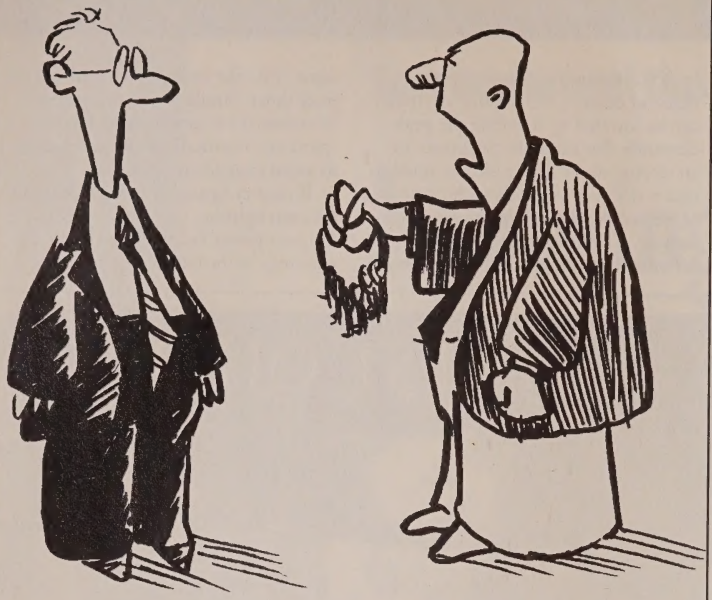

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MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION

From page 33

Poor power factor is easily corrected by installing capacitors. Check your invoice or call your utility to see if you're incurring such a penalty.

In the future, congregations may be able to purchase electricity the same way we now purchase long-distance telephone service. With so-called retail wheeling of electricity, the wires and meters will remain, but we may have more choice in who generates the electricity for our consumption. This is similar to choices we have with transportation gas. Stay tuned.

Keep records. You can't play the energy management game successfully without keeping score of your energy consumption. Your monthly bills provide the information—the number of kilowatt-hours, kilowatts of demand, therms of gas, and gallons of fuel. When you compare your levels of energy use to the levels for the same month in previous years, you're alerted to sudden changes. If the price increases, you'll know it and be reminded to seek competitive bids. If consumption has increased, your bills may signal other problems such as buildings or equipment that need repair. Either way, examining your records can help you keep expensive energy from falling through the cracks.

Aim to conserve energy. The best source of low-cost fuel and electricity is called conservation. Once you are purchasing lower-cost energy, it is still cheaper not to use it until you need it. Also, make sure your equipment has been fine-tuned and well-maintained so you can use energy more efficiently. Another technique: purchase more efficient equipment. You can usually justify the higher marginal costs for efficient equipment with the savings they create. Over time, they will pay for themselves.

Andrew Rudin is head of the Interfaith Coalition on Energy and is a member of the advisory board of YOUR CHURCH. *For more information, you may contact him at: ICE, 7217 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027. Or you may call (215/635-1122), or e-mail (754-0723 @mcimail.com).*

How to protect your church from property and liability risks

Blessed Insurance

by Patrick M. Moreland

Sooner or later, *something* will happen. True, you can reduce the chances of a tragic accident, fire, theft, or property damage. But you can't eliminate them completely—even if your church were to establish a safety committee and an active maintenance program. That's why insurance issues should concern every church.

What's at Risk?

Lay the foundation of your insurance program with a multi-peril policy (also called a commercial package). This kind of policy will cover most of your property and liability risks. Companies differ in what they offer, so compare policies carefully before making a decision.

Multi-peril policies can be structured to insure buildings and contents for *all risks* or for *named perils.* A named-peril policy lists the causes (perils) of loss for which you are covered, such as fire, lightning, windstorm, and hail. An all-risk policy covers all direct causes of loss except those listed as exclusions, such as wear and tear, war, flood, and earthquake. Exclusions vary among policies. *Example:* Some policies will cover damage caused by sewer backup; other policies will exclude such damage. All-risk coverage costs more, but most churches prefer it.

How Much Coverage?

To set a minimum limit for your insurance coverage, you must know what it would cost to replace your building and other property. Usually, the original purchase price and market value have little bearing on the replacement cost of your facilities. Some policies specify that the minimum limit be at least 80 percent of the replacement cost. If your coverage is found to be less than that at the time you suffer a loss, you will incur a coinsurance penalty. *Bottom line:* You share more of the loss with the insurance company.

Make sure your policy will cover increased costs of complying with a strict reconstruction code

Setting your insurance limit at 80 percent of replacement cost may satisfy most policy requirements, but you will still be underinsured if your church burns down. Also ask your agent to quote the cost of premiums for 100 percent of replacement cost.

While some policies settle claims at actual cash value, others settle for the replacement cost of the structure—usually more preferable for churches. The difference between these two kinds of policies is depreciation. *Example:* Suppose a roof has an average life of 30 years. Fifteen years after its installation it is severely damaged by wind (or any other covered cause of loss). An actual cash-value policy would pay half of the cost to replace the damaged roof since half of its life expectancy has passed. A replacement cost policy would pay 100 percent of the replacement cost, minus the deductible.

Some communities have building ordinances that severely restrict the repair of heavily damaged buildings. Watch out for these restrictions! If your community has a strict code for reconstruction, make sure your policy will cover the increased costs that would result from complying with such ordinances.

What Should You Include?

Depending on your circumstances, you'll want to evaluate the need for covering the following items in your insurance policy:

Rare, antique, or especially valuable items. Though an all-risk, replacement-cost policy will be adequate for most property, expensive paintings, statues, fine art objects, and antiques may need special attention. You and your insurance company should agree on the value of these items and list them in your policy. Otherwise, you may have a difficult time proving their value after they are stolen or destroyed.

From page 35

Theft of property. This can be included as a cause of loss, along with fire, wind, and other causes. To cover the theft, destruction, and disappearance of money, you'll need to specify a maximum limit you want covered—a figure approximately equal to your average weekly collections, with higher limits permitted for special offering days.

Suggestion: Purchase a bond to cover theft by employees or volunteers.

Extensions. Most policies will automatically include several coverage extensions, or additions. These extensions vary among companies, though some are quite important. *Example:* This is where you can cover property used away from church, such as a portable sound system.

This also is the place where you may find coverage for books, instruments, and other property left at your facility by clergy, members, and guests. Rarely is this coverage adequate; people leaving their property at your facility should have their property insured themselves.

Other extensions may cover the extra expenses of operating a church following a claim, such as renting meeting space while your building is being repaired. In addition, other extension coverages can save you money when your building is damaged. *Examples of coverages:*

- Damage by fire to trees, plants, lawns, and shrubs.
- Removal of debris after a fire.
- For maintenance buildings and fences.
- For valuable papers and records damaged by fire.

Lawsuits. Select a policy that will cover liability for legal negligence that causes bodily injury, personal injury (libel and slander), property damage, and sexual misconduct. The policy should apply whether the injury or damage occurs at or away from church. It should also cover negligence of a member, employee, or nearly anyone else acting for your church.

Such lawsuits can be expensive. No one knows what limit is enough, but consider $1 million. Medical bills, physical therapy, modifications to home and vehicle, lost income, and jury awards for pain and suffering can reach six or seven figures for a seriously injured member or guest.

Medical expenses. This type of insurance covers bills from less serious injuries without regard to fault. Medical expense limits typically range from $1,000 to $10,000 for each injured person.

You may buy this coverage to take the place of an injured person's medical insurance, or as a supplement to it. The first is called *primary,* the latter is *excess.* Most churches prefer primary even though it costs more. Make sure your policy covers sports injuries and other injuries for activities whether they occur at or away from your property.

Asking a volunteer to drive her own van to take the youth group to the bowling alley creates a liability risk

Other Insurance Needs

Most churches need more protection than a multi-peril policy provides. Other policies commonly needed by churches: automobile, workers' compensation, and umbrella liability policies.

Automobiles. If your church owns a vehicle, you need auto insurance. Don't skimp on your liability limit. Your vehicle—regardless of its type, age, or condition—can cause great harm to people and property. A $1 million limit is wise.

When you rent or borrow a car, you also create a liability risk. Even asking a volunteer to drive her own van to take the youth group to the bowling alley creates a liability risk. You can't rely on the volunteer driver or vehicle owner to have enough insurance to protect your church from risks of lawsuits from injuries caused by an automobile crash. Instead, check to see if your multi-peril policy can include liability insurance for injuries suffered in vehicles not owned by the church but used for church activities. This type of coverage is called "hired and nonowned auto liability."

Workers' compensation. If your church has an employee, you should carry workers' compensation insurance. In most states, in fact, the law says you must carry this insurance. Benefits are set by your state law. Usually such benefits include wage loss, medical bills, rehabilitation expenses, and death benefits. In most state workers' compensation laws clergy are treated as employees.

Umbrella liability policies. These policies increase your protection by an additional $1 million or more. Umbrella policies are often recommended since limits greater than $1 million are rarely offered in multi-peril policies for general liability or lawsuits stemming from vehicular injuries. If your church owns or uses a van or bus, buy an umbrella policy. The risk of serious injury to many occupants may make your multi-peril and automobile limits inadequate.

Caution: All insurance policies contain exclusions, limitations, and conditions that you must meet. Know how they can affect your church before you must file a claim. Read your policies.

Suggestion: Make your insurance purchasing decision based on the entire package being offered and by how closely it fits your church needs. Insurance companies vary in financial strength, knowledge and experience with churches, services, coverages, claims practices, and price.

Patrick M. Moreland, CPCU *(Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter), is a vice president of Church Mutual Insurance Company, Merrill, Wisconsin.*

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It's the bright thing to do

Projecting Your Video Image

by John Throop

What kind of image does your church project in its services? It's surprising how much time, effort, and money some churches spend to achieve high-quality music, sound preaching, and an uplifting atmosphere of worship. But many fall short when it comes to the equipment they use for visual displays. When people see high-quality video and computer graphics wherever they go—in presentations at work, the health club, the arena, and at home in their entertainment center or with their computer CD-ROM, they naturally ask, *Why shouldn't the church have tools as good as the rest of society?*

The Technology Shift

But times are changing. Now even many smaller churches are becoming familiar with the benefits multimedia projection has to offer for all sorts of purposes: teaching, training, recruiting, preaching, and worship. At the same time, the newer equipment is becoming more versatile, portable, powerful, and user-friendly.

Any church willing to use video projection technology opens the door to many exciting new tools for communicating the gospel. Computerized graphics, for example, together with music background can be used to enhance even basic Bible lessons—not just for displaying the texts of congregational hymns. Even some VBS and Sunday school providers are moving into the computer graphics territory, offering multimedia curriculum resources. Flannelgraph may still be around, but it has more competition than ever before. And these new tools are not just for your stand-alone computer in the office or classroom. You can use them in presentations to large groups in spacious indoor settings.

What to Look For

The decision to buy video projection equipment (also called LCD projectors) requires careful thought. The equipment's high price tag provides a compelling reason for purchasing items that will give you as wide a use as possible. See your investment as more than an investment in a video projector. Treat your purchase as a capital package that will include a high-quality, ceiling-hung, mechanized screen, rheostat dimmer switches for your lighting, a high-end VCR (maybe a laser-disc player), and software programs for Bible study, professional presentation, and music software.

One of the first questions to answer is whether portability might be important for your use. A related issue concerns sanctuary size. Technological advances have improved the *throw distance* of portable units. Throw distance is the optimum distance between the projector and the screen for maximum imaging. Portables generally can fill screens up to 180 inches with clear, bright images, though clarity is lost in larger or brighter auditoriums.

If the distance from platform to the farthest seating point is over 150 feet (or if you have a balcony), you may want to consider a fixed-point projector mounted on the ceiling. These powerful projectors offer higher resolution—even on a 300-inch screen—and brighter candlepower (measured in lumens). These heavier, bulkier units (80 pounds average) are used in arenas, stadiums, and large auditoriums. The throw distance between projector and screen is less of a problem, and the image remains sharp up to a certain distance even in a fully lit auditorium. Portable projectors cannot match such conditions.

Seating capacity is another measure that can help determine whether a fixed-point or portable video projector will best fit your needs. If your sanctuary seats 1,000 people or more in a long or deep room in a straight line, a more powerful fixed unit may be best. If your sanctuary seating is wide and people are closer to the platform, a multiple-screen format with several portable units may be best, since the screens are oriented to the viewers' line of sight. At the same time, you have to consider additional equipment (boards, cabling, etc.) to ensure simultaneous projection of the image.

The more portable a video projector, the more flexible your application. When you can set up the LCD in various places, you can project videos or computer software in a Sunday school class, then move it to the sanctuary to project

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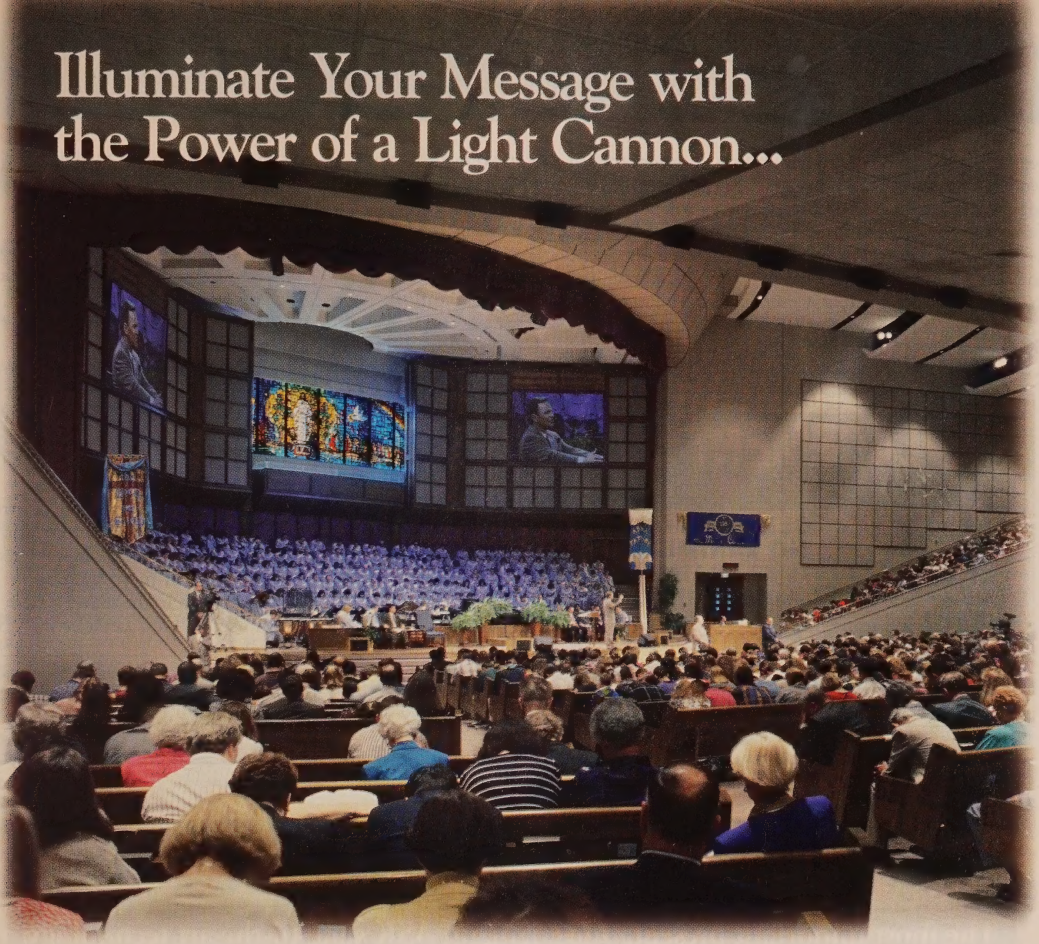

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words to music, a text from Scripture, a video drama clip, or announcements such as prayer concerns or a message from key internal or external leaders. Use a video projector to show the pastor's key sermon points or to liven youth and children's ministry events.

Portable projectors can weigh 40 to 50 pounds. But you can find lighter-weight models that still provide enough brightness to handle your basic assignments. One weighs in at just 13 pounds, another at 19. Lighter weights still offer popular features: video and computer data inputs, for instance.

Prices vary with selected features but primarily reflect the strength of the light output. Higher-priced models compete well with the light in a fully lit room. Most portable models offer 300–400 lumens, which produces a bright, clear picture for shorter distances. *Worth considering:* Halogen lamps have a long life, but the cost to replace one is about $300–$400.

In addition, the higher-end models can fill a larger screen (as much as 300-inch diagonal) with crystal-clear images. There a number of manufacturers to check out. *Tip:* When comparing models, be sure to ask about options. Some include the cost of a remote control unit in the basic price; others don't. Some have excellent built-in stereo sound for small-room use but require a patch to the sound system when used in your sanctuary.

John R. Throop is a management consultant and trainer, and also priest-in-charge at Christ Church (Episcopal), Peoria, Illinois.

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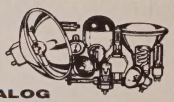

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Circle #003 on Response Card

The hard work of ministry means more than theology

Called to Preach; Forced to Administer

by Robert H. Welch

Lord, we've got a problem. I thought you called me into ministry to reach the hurting, to care for the spiritual and physical needs of the people you would lead my way. You never mentioned budgets, committees, carpets, or banquets. Lord, I spend more time making decisions about who gets the van, who should repair the boiler, and where we should buy Sunday school literature than I do preparing my sermon. I thought my gift was exhortation. Why are you asking me to do administration?

If you have ever shared these sentiments, you may find it helpful to take a fresh look at the role administration plays in your ministry.

The few times that the word *administration* appears in the New Testament, it is translated from a Greek word—its root means "helmsman." The helmsman was an indispensable person on a ship. Without a helmsman giving it direction, a ship was virtually useless, no matter how seaworthy it was. It could have freeboard to carry great loads, a keel to give it stability, and a strong sail to power it. But without the helmsman's hand on the tiller of the rudder, the boat would be tossed about by wind and waves.

Buried within the word *administration* is another word: *minister.* We know who ministers *are,* whether we call them pastors, priests, elders, or clergy. However, what ministers *do* is another matter, depending on whom you talk with. The minister's role simply isn't as clearly defined as we might wish. This role diffusion can cause frustration or anger among ministers. Such emotions can lead to low morale and job unhappiness which, in turn, can result in forced termination or clergy burn-out.

Usually the roles of the pastor are divided into two distinct groups: (1) *Traditional roles* of theology and liturgy, and (2) *Contemporary roles* of administration and organizing.

The greatest source of role conflict for pastors often can be traced to unrealistic and unclear expectations

Traditional role activities include:

- Preparing and delivering sermons.
- Leading in worship.
- Administering sacraments.
- Officiating in church rites (weddings, funerals, etc.).
- Visiting the sick, counseling, and caring for the hurting.
- Biblical teaching and new convert training.

Contemporary role activities include:

- Management and oversight—being the CEO of the parish.
- Strategizing, planning, and leading church programs and activities.
- Developing a budget; management of finances.
- Upkeep and maintenance of the facility.
- Networking or connecting with outside church organizations.
- Recruiting, motivating, and training staff and church leaders.

Ask ministers to name factors that contribute most toward an effective parish and they will typically respond with items from the first list. Responsibilities related to administration and organization are nearly always named in the lowest percentiles of the survey. Yet when you ask ministers to name job assignments that consume most of their time, administration and organization are nearly always mentioned. In fact, most ministers estimate that between 50 and 60 percent of their week is taken up in administrative matters. Some report higher.

Role Conflict

The discrepancy between pastors' perception of factors that constitute an effective ministry and the assignments they actually have to do to be effective poses a significant dilemma. Ministers cannot simply focus energies on their personal expectations for the role of ministry. Instead, they must take into consideration the expectations forced upon them by their congregations and sometimes even by other clergy (denominational officers, for instance).

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The greatest source of role conflict for pastors often can be traced to the unrealistic and unclear expectations they live with. That is why I tell students or colleagues about to take a ministry position to ensure that a clearly understood position description is in place—unless, of course, they enjoy tip-toeing through a perilous minefield.

Research has consistently demonstrated that pastors believe the expectations of the parishioners represent their greatest source of role conflict. Conflict can occur when various conditions exist:

- When ministerial tasks are not clearly stated, though parishioners expect them.
- When pastors and/or parishioners fail to recognize the ministers' role as executive leaders.
- When pastors must focus energies on pleasing a centralized, denominational hierarchy—at the expense of meeting congregational expectations.

Younger, less confident pastors tend to encounter greater role conflict. Some researchers contend that much of the conflict associated with administrative or organizational roles can be attributed to the fact that most new pastors do not receive the training or even understand why these skills are necessary in ministry. Without that understanding, they do not have the motivation to learn. Many ministerial candidates leave professional schools fully possessing their self-image as preacher, priest, teacher, or pastor. But they often lack an image of themselves as an administrator or organizer.

Most ministry preparatory schools emphasize the mastery of the religious traditions and stress personal spiritual formation. This may or may not include procedural competence in these skills. Some schools attempt to arouse social awareness. But rarely does instruction include the daily administrative responsibilities of the parish, even though research has demonstrated this will be where the new ministers will spend the majority of their time.

Job Satisfaction

Younger pastors and seminary-trained pastors tend to identify with the traditional and theological roles. These are the ones who report less job satisfaction. Research indicates that pastors willing to accept administrative and organizational responsibilities as a necessary part of their ministry roles are more content in their jobs. They tend to have longer tenure and to view their ministry as being successful.

In one study, pastors were asked to rate a series of role-related tasks and indicate which tasks provided positive professional morale. Administrative tasks were found to cause problems with ministerial morale, primarily for two reasons: (1) ministers were frustrated by their inability to effectively perform administrative tasks; (2) ministers were frustrated because of the amount of time administrative

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tasks took them away from the tasks they viewed as more important—the traditional clergy roles of theology and liturgy.

The Survivor

Christianity Today (March 1982) discussed the sudden rise in forced termination in a major denomination. The article attributed much of the increase in forced terminations and departures from ministry to burnout or to conflicts between the minister and the congregation about administrative expectations. The article noted that the better the minister was able to develop administrative and organizational skills, the less likely he or she would be terminated. The key to ministerial survival was the ability to develop leaders, to build support, and to achieve a consensus of church goals, norms, and values—administrative functions.

So what's a pastor to do? There are at least two things:

Acknowledge the traditional. Without question, ministers should be viewed primarily as theological and liturgical experts. Their essential function should focus on knowing, interpreting, celebrating, and applying the tenants of the faith and church.

Accept new roles. Yet ministers must recognize that their actual roles go beyond theological and liturgical assignments. Society has changed; more congregations expect pastors to embrace the practical and pragmatic roles of a CEO. While administrative and organizational responsibilities should be corollary to and never replace the primary roles of pastors, they have become essential for pastors to survive.

What more needs to be done? Seminaries and Bible colleges can work towards including practical instruction that will help those preparing for the ministry to develop administrative and organizational skills. They can update their curriculum to provide learning experiences that would improve the students' sense of effectiveness and proficiency in administration. A realistic balance between training in the traditional role and the contemporary role must be achieved.

If a high school student came to me today expressing a call to full-time Christian service as a pastor, I would advise that student to go to college and get a business or management degree—and not take any religion courses. In seminary over 95 percent of what he or she will study will be preparation for the traditional role of the minister—theology and liturgy. Less than 5 percent will equip the student for what he or she will do in the parish with regard to the everyday, contemporary administration—the things that will make the student a survivor as pastor.

Robert H. Welch, Ph.D., is assistant professor of administration at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

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Circle #025 on Response Card

Being sensitive to your culture requires a cutting edge

Worship Technology

by Doug Prewitt

Finally, the day arrived. Our family had seen the ads, read the reviews, and selected the place. We were ready to see *Apollo 13.* We drove to a theater that advertised "digitally-enhanced surround sound" and found our seats. With the proper accessories at hand (popcorn, Diet Coke, and Milk Duds), we were ready to watch—make that, *experience*—the long-anticipated movie.

It was worth it! When the blastoff took place, we could *feel* the sound. It seemed as though our seats lifted off the floor of the theater. We savored the experience clear through credits.

Do our members anticipate, with the same excitement and intensity, an encounter with our heavenly Father each week? I can only wish.

Total Experience

Our movie experience reminded me of several things we can learn in our efforts to embrace new worship technology. First, we were drawn into the theater experience from the moment we walked into the room. The preview ads and trivia questions were scrolling on the screen with tasteful music in the background. The screen held our attention.

At church, the stage or front of the sanctuary is equivalent to the screen. Since distractions always attend worship services, we compete for the attention of every listener in the room. With the flood of media images in society today, people have learned to tune out. Attention spans have been reduced. This makes our task even more challenging.

Using multimedia presentations during the worship prelude can draw the focus of the worshiper to the stage. Imagine having church announcements or information scrolling across a large screen in the front of your sanctuary. Such announcements can be created easily with presentation software packages.

Other possibilities include video preludes available from some of the music publishers. Music and scenic video draw the attention of the worshiper up front to the Lord. With the proper tools, you can let your imagination run with even more alternatives.

A laptop or notebook computer can help you generate high-quality multimedia presentations for your worshipers. Simply send the VGA output of the computer to a video projector or LCD projection panel on an overhead. The projector does the rest. *Check:* You may need a video converter to convert VGA output of the computer to an NTSC video input for the projector, though some units have VGA capabilities built in.

Full Sound

The theater's sound system drew us into the movie and allowed us to *feel* the full dimension of sound. It pains me to enter an auditorium poorly equipped to

project the most important message ever known to humanity. Even if the quality of the musical instruments is good, what about the message? Imagine enjoying high-quality worship music from a $20,000 digital organ and $15,000 grand piano, and then struggling to hear the pastor speak through an outdated $2,500 sound system.

Though sound technology changes every day, we don't have to update constantly or blow our budget on sound systems. We don't need to purchase new inputs for synthesizers, choir mikes, worship teams, guitars, basses, or organs just because new inputs are different from the ones we purchased five years ago. ☞

Worship Resources

Here's a quick sample of resources for enhancing your worship.

Brentwood Music Publishing. Sheet music and dynamic recordings of contemporary praise choruses such as "Praise You" by Elezabeth Goodine. 800/846-7664.

Creative Resource Group. Scripts for worship drama presentations. 800/400-7063.

Genevox. Cantatas and musicals, programs such as "The Music of Christmas" by Dennis and Nan Allen or "The Wonder of His Love" by Stan Pethel, with narration and drama by Janet McMahan-Wilson. Also contemporary children's musicals. 800/436-3869.

Heartcry. Praise and worship series, including the live worship album from Steve Fry. Available at Christian bookstores.

Integrity Music Worship Software.™ Helps you find the music, plan the event, select the people, and print the bulletin. Cross-reference search tool lets you find songs (out of 5,000 songs in 17 hymnals and songbooks) by theme, key, tempo, scriptural references, author, publisher, and date of your last use. Includes lyrics from Hosanna! Music songbooks 1–10. Cost: $159.95. 800/239-7000.

Maranatha! Music. An entire line of worship products, including CDs, cassettes, and songbooks. "Live Worship" with Promise Keepers and the Maranatha! Promise Band. Sponsors of Worship™ Leaders' Workshops 96. Available at Christian bookstores, or call 800/245-SONG.

Metro One. "One Voice Worship Series," designed to bring believers of different backgrounds together in Jesus with music from their various traditions. Produced by John Andrew Schreiner, featuring worship leaders from Vineyard Christian Fellowship, Calvary Chapel Fellowship, and mainline denominations. Package includes lyrics and chords for worship leaders to use. Available at Christian bookstores, or call 714/673-6701 (e-mail: M1News@aol.com).

Star Song Communications (distributed by Chordant Distribution Group). Vineyard Music, including "The Acoustic Worship Series" with guitar, piano, and small-group worship. Cassette, CD, songbook, and leadsheets. Available at Christian bookstores.

Worship Resources. Manufacturer of custom worship slides and dealer specializing in church applications of full-line audio/visual and video equipment. 800/486-0305.

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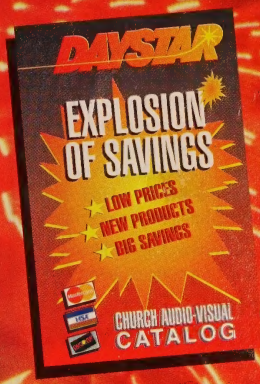

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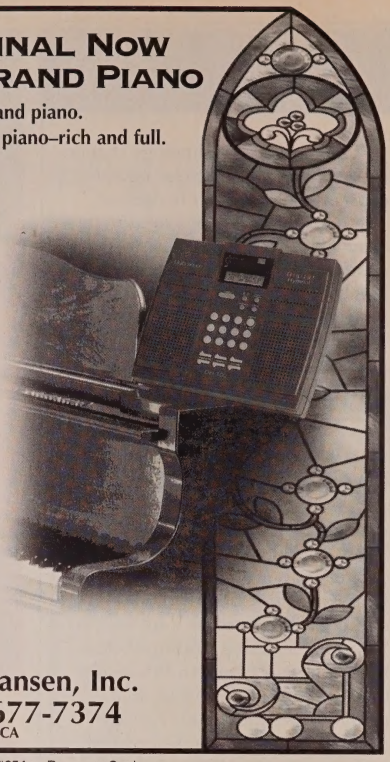

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MUSIC & SOUND

From page 45

But if we're still using a 15-year-old system, maybe it's time to consider the competition. What do our members listen to when they're not at church? Many of them drive to church listening to systems in their cars more powerful than we have in our sanctuaries.

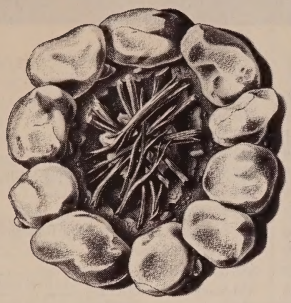
Some sound equipment manufacturers are waking up to the needs of the church sound market, introducing audio products targeted especially at the church market—equipment focused for use in a worship setting. Amplifiers, mixers, speakers, and equalizers are being engineered in user-friendly packages to fit a variety of sanctuary sizes and shapes. Since the sound system operator is as much a part of the worship team as those on the platform, such products have to be easy to understand and operate.

People are attracted to excellence. With better equipment, recruiting volunteers to run the sound board becomes easier to do. When recruits see they will have state-of-the-art equipment to work with, they're more likely to say yes. *Reason:* Volunteers don't want to embarrass themselves or feel the glare of criticism while struggling with an outdated system. Old equipment can be a hassle for someone trying to squelch a noisy feedback or solve some other distracting problem.

We don't need to fear technology in worship. Bill Gaither once said, "We can never change the gospel of Christ. It is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. However, we always have to look at our methods of portraying the gospel message to an ever-changing world." If we can use technology to raise the level of our music and proclamation, then we're improved our methods to reach our world.

Our style of worship, the types of songs we prefer, and the number of worship leaders we use do not matter. What matters is that our members can hear clearly and understand so they can lift their focus to God.

Doug Prewitt is minister of music at Susquehanna Baptist Church and lives in Kansas City, Missouri.



ONLY YOU

Make the Campfire Right Before You Light

Smokey is counting on you to build a safe campfire.

1. Dig a small pit away from overhanging branches.
2. Circle the pit with rocks.
3. Clear a five-foot area around the pit down to the soil.
4. Keep a bucket of water and shovel nearby.
5. Stack extra wood upwind and away from the fire.
6. After lighting, do not discard match until it is cold.
7. Never leave a campfire unattended, even for a minute.

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES.

A Public Service of the USDA Forest Service and Your State Forester.

Ad Council

ADVERTISER INDEX

Want more free information?

Here is the effortless way to get it. The **Index of Advertisers** lists in alphabetical order companies that will send you free information. If you want general information from several vendors, find the category in the **Products & Services** section.

Next: Circle the corresponding numbers on the adjacent **Free Information Service** card, fill in the other information, and drop the card in the mail. YOUR CHURCH pays the postage. It couldn't be easier.

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IN THE KNOW

Computing Savings

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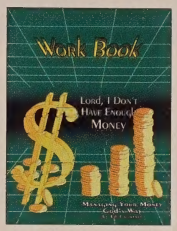

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Avg. Sunday Morning Attendance
1 ☐ 100 or less
2 ☐ 101 - 200
3 ☐ 201 - 300
4 ☐ 301-500
5 ☐ 501 - 1000
6 ☐ 1001 - 2000
7 ☐ 2001 +

Church Budget
1 ☐ Under $100,000
2 ☐ $100,001 - $200,000
3 ☐ $200,001 - $300,000
4 ☐ $300,001 - $500,000
5 ☐ $500,001 - $1,000,000
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528 Other
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Computing Savings

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"Many ministries compromise on quality by buying locally built computers instead of name-brand equipment," said Nick Nicholaou, MBS president. He explained his goal of providing a service to churches, enabling them, in effect, to purchase high-quality products in volume, gaining appropriate discounts in the process. He stressed that MBS makes nothing from sales that result from this arrangement.

How it works: Call CompUSA (800/8DIRECT) and enter personal identification number "MBS77." A sales rep will quote the discounted price, take your order, and arrange for delivery. If a local CompUSA store has your item in stock, you can pick it up there.

Ministry Business Services, Inc., P.O. Box 1567, Huntington Beach, CA 92647-1567; 714/847-4545; 714/847-4101 (fax); e-mail: nick@mbsnet.com.

Demographics on Demand

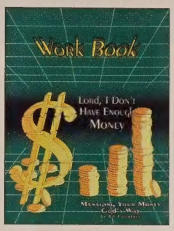
You could hire a statistician to learn about the people your church wants to reach. Or you could check out the resources provided by ***Percept Group, Inc.*** The Ministry Area Profile (MAP) and the Community Preference Assessment (COMPASS) are two tools that help church leaders strategize how best to impact their community. MAP provides answers to a whole range of questions: *What kind of people live here? Who's moving in? Who's moving out? How many two-parent families live here? How many single-parent homes?*

COMPASS offers applications to the MAP results: *What are the interests and concerns of people in our area? What ministry programs will connect with them? What style of ministry will appeal to their tastes?* Percept's three-ring binder of reports, maps, and overhead transparencies will stimulate your thinking and help adjust the direction of your church's ministry.

Percept, 151 Kalmus Dr. Ste. A104, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; 800/442-6277.

Money Matters

Walk through any bookstore at your local mall and you'll find plenty of advice on how to save or invest your money. But few books offer biblical principles on financial matters. *Lord, I Don't Have Enough Money* (***Quest for Truth Ministries,*** 1995) does. Authored by Ed Courtney, a pastor trained in business and experienced in rescuing churches in financial difficulties, the manual and its companion workbook offer practical, step-by-step guidelines to take control of personal finances. Courtney puts biblical insights into a format that works for individual or group study.



The book's philosophy encompasses a holistic view of life, discussing other "things" we possess besides money: intellect, emotions, will, family, friends, influence, and spiritual resources.

Quest for Truth Ministries, Inc., 13706 Research Blvd., Ste. 216, Austin, TX 78750; 800/331-8280.

Evangelism Tool

If your church or evangelism teams urge people to make personal decisions for Christ, *Are You Going to Heaven?* offers an effective tool to answer objections people often raise. Here is a videotape presentation of the gospel that is clear, direct, and unapologetic.

Through the use of live interviews, dramatic re-enactments, statistics, and 3D-computer animation, this video from ***Double Vision Studios*** challenges people to compare their beliefs with the Bible's. Hosts Francis Anfuso and Jill Hollier analyze typical American views and then compellingly show their deficiencies. The tape also invites viewers to pray for repentance. Some church leaders may not appreciate the concluding clips (showing churches from around the world with a distinctly charismatic flavor). Except for that caveat, this tape will enhance the outreach resources of any evangelical church.

Double Vision Studios, 1500 W. El Camino Ave., #225, Sacramento, CA 95833; 800/748-6511.

Isn't It Time You Met An Angel?

The building campaign is on. The congregation and committees are enthusiastic and supportive. Fund raising is going well. But are you really ready?

You pray for a knowledgeable resource, sound advice and, of course, cost-effective financing... all in one place. In short, an angel who understands your special needs and can help you achieve your goals.

Your prayers have been answered. We know how to finance churches and church construction projects.

Our religious financial resources bring years of experience and a thorough understanding of the financial dynamics of religious organizations... of pledges, tithes, offerings, fund drives, etc. and the resulting unique nature of your cash flow. We understand how to finance your project by looking at your history, budget and cash flow, for example, not just at your financial statements or the loan to value ratio.

Our lending programs, from construction loans to permanent loans, are founded on our experience and designed to accommodate your special needs.

In addition, we are more than just a lender. We offer access to resources from architects to contractors to environmental specialists to zero-balance accounts.

With locations around the country, we can help you plan, offer insight and help you realize your building and financing goals.

Call Therese DeGroot at 1-800-791-AMEN for lending information and a candid evaluation of your building situation.

Come meet your angel.

Please ask about our low rates!

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HIGH-INTENSITY OVERHEAD

When too many windows restrict a church's use of video, a solution can be found by improving the traditional overhead. Standard overhead

projectors don't always have the brightness necessary to penetrate dense LCD projection panels, especially in rooms that cannot be darkened. That's why a high-performance overhead can be a valuable tool. The model 668 Professional Overhead Projector from ***Dukane Corporation*** (with 5,500 ANSI lumens) provides high-end multimedia capabilities for church, school, and business applications. Built-in AC outlets make it possible to plug in a projection panel and laptop right from the 668. Its high/low switch regulates light output, permitting a reduced 4,000-lumen level for standard use with overhead transparencies. Suggested list price: $1,295 (includes a three-year warranty).

Circle 901 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49 or call 800/676-2485.

CHURCH SIGN

Your church can easily update messages to its community on a regular basis with a ChurchSIGN™ from ***Signature Electronic Signs, Inc.***

Instead of pulling plastic letters from a box, ChurchSIGN uses new technology to list announcements regarding special events, sermon topics, services, and more. Wireless programming from either a touchpad or your church's personal computer allows you to post your messages with state-of-the-art LCD display in letters that are easy for passersby to read—and more aesthetically pleasing than many other electronic displays. Each ChurchSIGN comes with a customized header showing the name and logo of the church.

Circle 902 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49 or call 800/545-7976 for a free brochure.

SYNTHESIZER

No matter who plays music in your church—from the seasoned pro to the willing amateur—***Kurzweil***'s K2vx sampling synthe-

sizer will satisfy them all. This upgraded, expanded member of the K2000 system was designed for players at every level. Despite the wide variety of skills found among church musicians, the K2vx instrument has something for them all. It comes fully loaded with features your musicians can put to work immediately: a 61-note keyboard; 24 MB of sound ROM with 600 programs, 300 setups, and 80 "quick access" banks; a 32-track onboard sequencer; as well as a built-in data management system.

Circle 903 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49.

SNAP-ON WIRELESS TRANSMITTER

If you already have the microphones you need, you don't need to lay out a major investment just to add wireless capabilities. The Link™, a snap-on, VHF wireless transmitter from ***Nady,*** makes it possible to transform your hardwired micro-

phones with XLR connectors into wireless mikes. To make the switch, simply unplug the mike from its cable, plug it into the The Link, and turn it on. You will need a Nady VHF receiver, which allows your converted wireless mikes to operate at 250 feet in adverse conditions and 1,000 feet with a direct line of sight. The Link's metal housing and locking option will provide both long-term use and consistently tight connections.

Circle 904 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49.

COMPACT MIXER

To conserve space, you often have to compromise somewhere else. But quality of performance and ease of use have not been sacrificed to achieve a smaller unit in ***Phonic***'s MM122. How small is it? The MM122 measures just 11.9" x 11.7" x 3.3" and weighs only 7.3 lbs. Yet it offers features usually found only on larger consoles—slider faders and a user-friendly design, for example. It provides four mono channels and four stereo channels, each with high and low shelving EQ.

Other features: phantom power switch, input gain control, two auxiliary sends, and front-panel jacks.

Circle 905 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49.

CHURCH GRAPHICS RESOURCE KIT

Imagine hundreds of Bible illustrations from both the Old and New Testament with complete inter-

changeability—you can change the size, color, and placement of Bible figures in your choice of scenes. With Bible Clips from ***Logos Research Systems,*** you can create a Bible slide show with your laptop's PowerPoint, add illustrations to your church publications, or print Bible coloring sheets for your Sunday school class. In addition to the multiple Bible characters and scenes, there are more than 150 color and black-and-white symbols and clip art illustrations. Though Bible Clips works with Windows programs like Illustrator, Freehand, Persuasion, Pagemaker, CorelDRAW, Designer, Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, QuarkXpress, and more, it comes with a free copy of Arts & Letters DRAW so you can arrange and edit drawings to fit your needs. Also included: free instructional video.

Circle 906 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49.

STAGE LIGHTING

Churches expanding their drama and musical productions will want to think about installing more than

a traditional spotlight and a few rows of colored lights for effects. A place that provides a full range of performance lighting products is ***High End Systems, Inc.,*** which offers automated luminaires, lighting consoles, strobes, laser simulators, color-changing fixtures, and more. The Studio Color™ Automated Wash Luminaire, just to give one example, provides a designer's palette of colors, dimming, strobe/shutter, variable beam shaping, variable frosting, and precision positioning. And if you want to go high-tech, High End's lighting consoles will coordinate all your effects by operating in conjunction with your 486 PC.

Circle 907 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49.

PARTITION SYSTEM

In an age of higher construction costs, multiple use of church facilities has become a reasonable solution. When a church can divide a fellowship hall or classroom area into smaller rooms—and do it economically—it essentially extends the functions of its space. The Glidewall™ Track and Roller Partition System from ***Singer Safety Company*** offers just such a convenient solution to divide large rooms, conceal supplies or storage areas, and create privacy rooms. The Glidewall System—a three-ply, decorative vinyl fabric with suspension hardware—combines

aesthetics and flexibility and is installed easily with minimal building modifications. Its rollers glide

smoothly and noiselessly within a ceiling-mounted track: pull it out when you need it; push it out of the way when you don't.
Circle 908 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49 or call 800/621-0089.

FUNDRAISER PRODUCT

When your youth group, ladies' auxiliary, or other church club wants to run a fundraising activity without pushing the sugar and fat of a traditional bake sale, popcorn may be the answer. ***Robin's Gourmet Popcorn*** offers customized fundraisers for groups,

requiring no minimum orders, no money down, and no shipping charges. With proper credit approval, your group can order as little or as much popcorn as it wants, sell each bag for $2, and keep $1 for its bank account.
Circle 909 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49 or call 800/839-9060 for free samples.

EQUALIZER

If repeated feedback plagues your sound system or if you have frequent varieties of music performers and worship teams, you've proba-

bly wished for the kind of control that ***Rane Corporation***'s RPE 228 can provide. The RPE 228 is a two-channel (it can handle stereo input), one-third octave (with three controls per octave range), remote programmable constant-Q equalizer in a single-rack unit. The front panel has minimal controls since filter and level controls are accessible through your personal computer. Graph, slider, and memory screens are available with the supplied RaneWare™ Windows™ software. Up to 16 memories may be programmed via RS-232 and recalled with external contact closures without need for a computer to be continually present in your sound booth. Suggested retail price: $1,249.
Circle 910 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49.

VIDEO PROJECTOR

The challenge for mid-size churches is to find a video projector that performs well without compromising

the church budget. With a suggested list price of $3,295, the portable LC-180 from ***Eiki International*** deserves a good look. The LC-180 projects video images to screens up to 10' wide with an image brightness of up to 140 ANSI lumins, permitting presentations to larger audiences or in higher ambient light conditions. Weighing only 23 pounds, this compact projector can be carried easily, though some use an optional soft-sided travel case with built-in wheels and telescoping handle. For permanent installations, a ceiling mount is available.
Circle 911 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49.

MINIROBE

When your children's choir sings, do the children look as good as they sound? As cherub choirs have increased in number, ***Thomas Creative Apparel*** decided to design a minirobe for young songsters. Miniature replicas of traditional choir robes used by church and school choirs, these robes have an

easy-to-use zipper and fit children who range in sizes up to 4'6" in height. They come in your choice of six kid colors with a price as small as their size. And, since they're machine washable, you won't have to spend extra for cleaning.
Circle 912 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49.

PIPE ORGAN SOUND MODULE

With a MIDI-compatible keyboard, you can link up with the EXL-150 or EXL-200 (pictured) from

Viscount to create an institutional pipe organ sound. The EXL features four stops on manual one (plus strings and choir), nine stops on manual two (plus piano and harpsichord), and three pedal stops. The EXL makes it possible to program your favorite setups into six preset locations. Other features: built-in digital reverb, instant transposing capabilities, stereo outputs to run through a church's speaker system, and separate volume controls for manuals and pedals. Retail price: $1,995.
Circle 913 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49 or call 800/253-0293.

INDOOR PLAYGROUND

Indoor play equipment can give your smaller church attendees activities that develop both their gross-motor and cognitive skills. ***SafeSpace Concepts, Inc.,*** offers several units of play equipment for church preschools or daycare cen-

ters. Made with ultra-firm, high-density (2.5 lb.) structural foam and covered with soft, flexible naugahyde, the equipment provides extended-use, safe activities for little ones. Yet your staff will find it light-weight and easy to move. Accessories made of Butyrate tubes and industrial-grade Velcro round out the equipment and allow different configurations. Standards from the American Pediatrics Association helped guide the sizing and openings of the equipment.
Circle 914 on the Free Information Service Card by page 49 or call 800/622-4289.

CHURCH MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

The good news is your church is growing; the bad news is you'll need to give still more time and work. Keeping track of increasing numbers of church members can be a daunting task. That's why the recent release of ROLL CALL for Windows from ***By the Numbers, Inc.,*** will come as welcome news.

This church package is designed for multi-platform use (Windows 3.x, Win 95, Win NT, Macintosh, or combinations) on networks or as stand-alone. It offers the tools necessary to enhance church communications, ministry management, and coordination of staff and volunteers. It also tracks church members and families, recording their attendance, donations, gifts and talents, participation in programs and activities, and significant dates.

"ROLL CALL is full of details that prove it is the product of feedback from real people in real churches," writes Kay Hall, author of *The Ministry Macintosh,* in a recent review.

ROLL CALL is priced at three levels: $595 (standard package); $345 (ROLL CALL 300, for smaller congregations); and $795 (ROLL CALL PLUS, with more options plus additional database and reporting capabilities).
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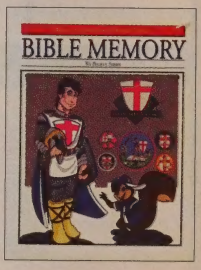

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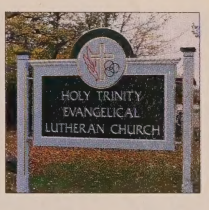

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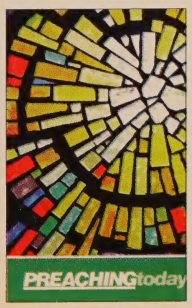

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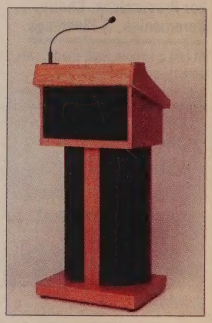

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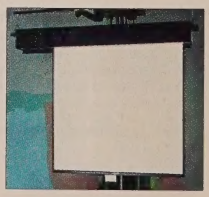

LCD Projection Lens Catalog

This free catalog describes LCD projection lenses that can maximize the use of your LCD projector. Included in the catalog are projection charts for calculating projection distance and image size and prices. Our catalog includes lenses for Sharp, Eiki, Ampro, NEC, Proxima, Philips, Panasonic, InFocus, Boxlight, and Epson projectors. In addition, we offer lenses for Davis, nView, and Sanyo projectors upon request. As always, if you need help in selecting the right lens or have an unusual projection application, call us on our information line: 800/245-4574.

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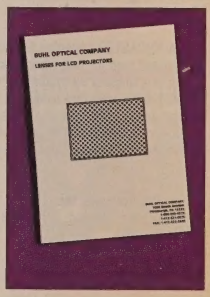

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Avg. Sunday Morning Attendance
1 ☐ 100 or less
2 ☐ 101 - 200
3 ☐ 201 - 300
4 ☐ 301-500
5 ☐ 501 - 1000
6 ☐ 1001 - 2000
7 ☐ 2001 +

Church Budget
1 ☐ Under $100,000
2 ☐ $100,001 - $200,000
3 ☐ $200,001 - $300,000
4 ☐ $300,001 - $500,000
5 ☐ $500,001 - $1,000,000
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If you are planning to build, when? Year _____ Month _____
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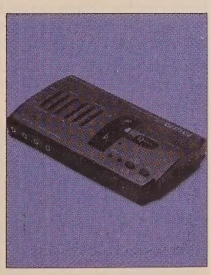

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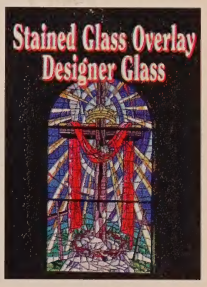

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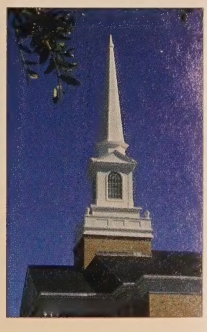

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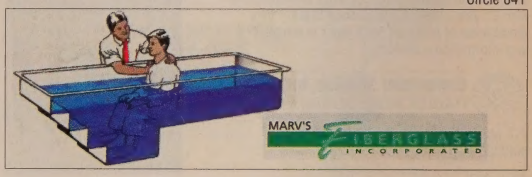

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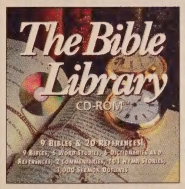

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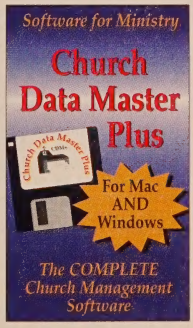

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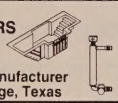

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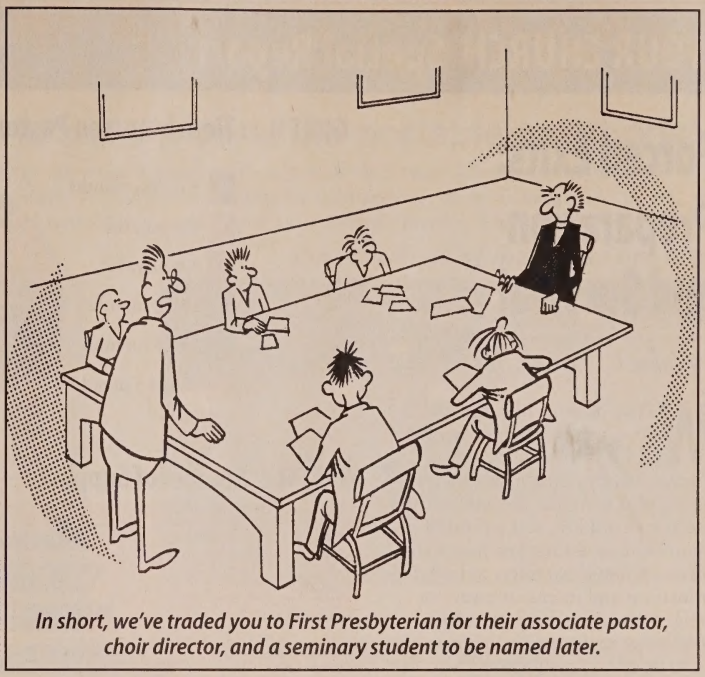

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Forced Exits: Preparation and Survival

by John C. LaRue, Jr.

We live in a day of corporate downsizings, massive layoffs, and low employee loyalty. Pastors and churches have experienced similar trends. Pastoral tenures are at a record low, and a third of all churches forced their last pastor to leave. (A *forced exit* refers to both terminations and intense pressure to resign.) Vocational experts advise workers to make survival preparations in case a layoff comes their way. Pastors can heed the same advice; it's certain some of them will be asked to take an early departure.

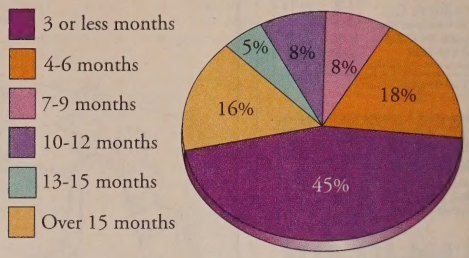
This third installment of a five-part series is based on a recent nationwide study conducted for YOUR CHURCH. The first two reports covered the prevalence of forced exits and the toxic environment of some churches contributing to these statistics. This report draws on the experience of pastors to give tips on how to survive a forced exit if one comes your way.

Save for the Interim

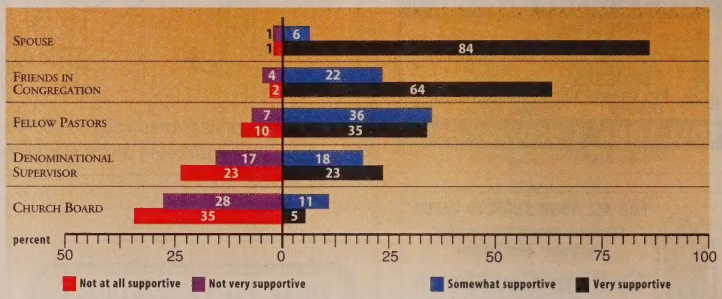
The typical pastor believes he or she could survive almost two months without a paycheck. However, ousted pastors have found it typically takes four months, or twice their estimated survival margin, to find another position in pastoral ministry. For a fourth of forced-out pastors it took a year or longer to find another position. (See Chart 1 for details.)

Just four in ten received a severance package upon leaving—typically equal to about three months' salary. These findings indicate that nearly all ousted pastors suffer a minimum of one month without pay. The vast majority would need to save four or more months' salary to make it between churches.

GRAPH 1: Time between Pastorates



GRAPH 2: Sources of Support



Seek the Right Support

Pastors need someone to turn to for support during times of conflict and any resulting resignation or termination. Not surprisingly, the best source of support for nine out of ten married pastors comes from the pastor's spouse.

Support can also be found from other sources. Two-thirds of forced-out pastors found friends within the congregation to be "very supportive." An additional 22 percent said friends were "somewhat supportive." Still another source of support for a majority of ousted pastors is fellow pastors from other churches. Thirty-five percent found other pastors to be "very supportive" and another 36 percent to be "somewhat supportive."

Just over half (54%) received help in finding another pastoral position from denominational offices.

One in five terminated pastors sought out a professional Christian counselor. The duration of counseling sessions averaged six months. Six percent of spouses went to a Christian counselor as a result of their spouse being forced out of a pastorate.

Respondents are divided over the helpfulness of their denominational supervisor. Equal numbers found this individual to be "very supportive" (23%) and "not at all supportive" (23%). As for the church board, only one in six found its members to be supportive at all. Instead, two-thirds of ousted pastors found the church board to be a major source of contention.

The Study

We mailed 999 surveys to a random selection of U.S. pastors who subscribe to LEADERSHIP, CHRISTIANITY TODAY, and YOUR CHURCH. A total of 593 pastors responded, giving a 59 percent response rate. With a sample this size, results are considered accurate to within plus or minus 4 percentage points 95 percent of the time.

Next time: Counting the Costs.

John C. LaRue, Jr., director of Christianity Online in Carol Stream, Illinois, was formerly research director for Christianity Today, Inc.

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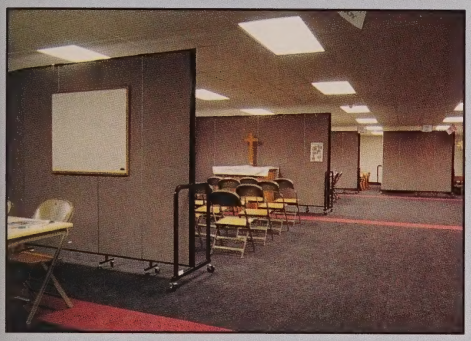

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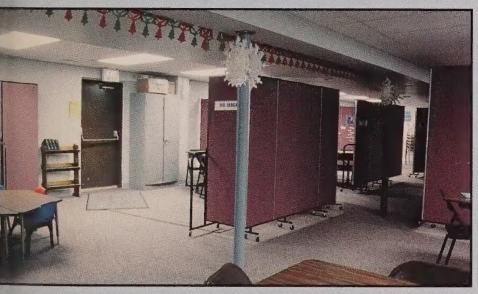

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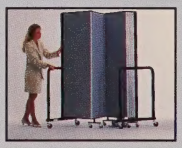
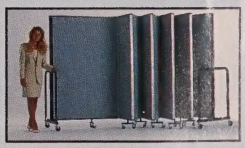


Unlock partition and pull handle



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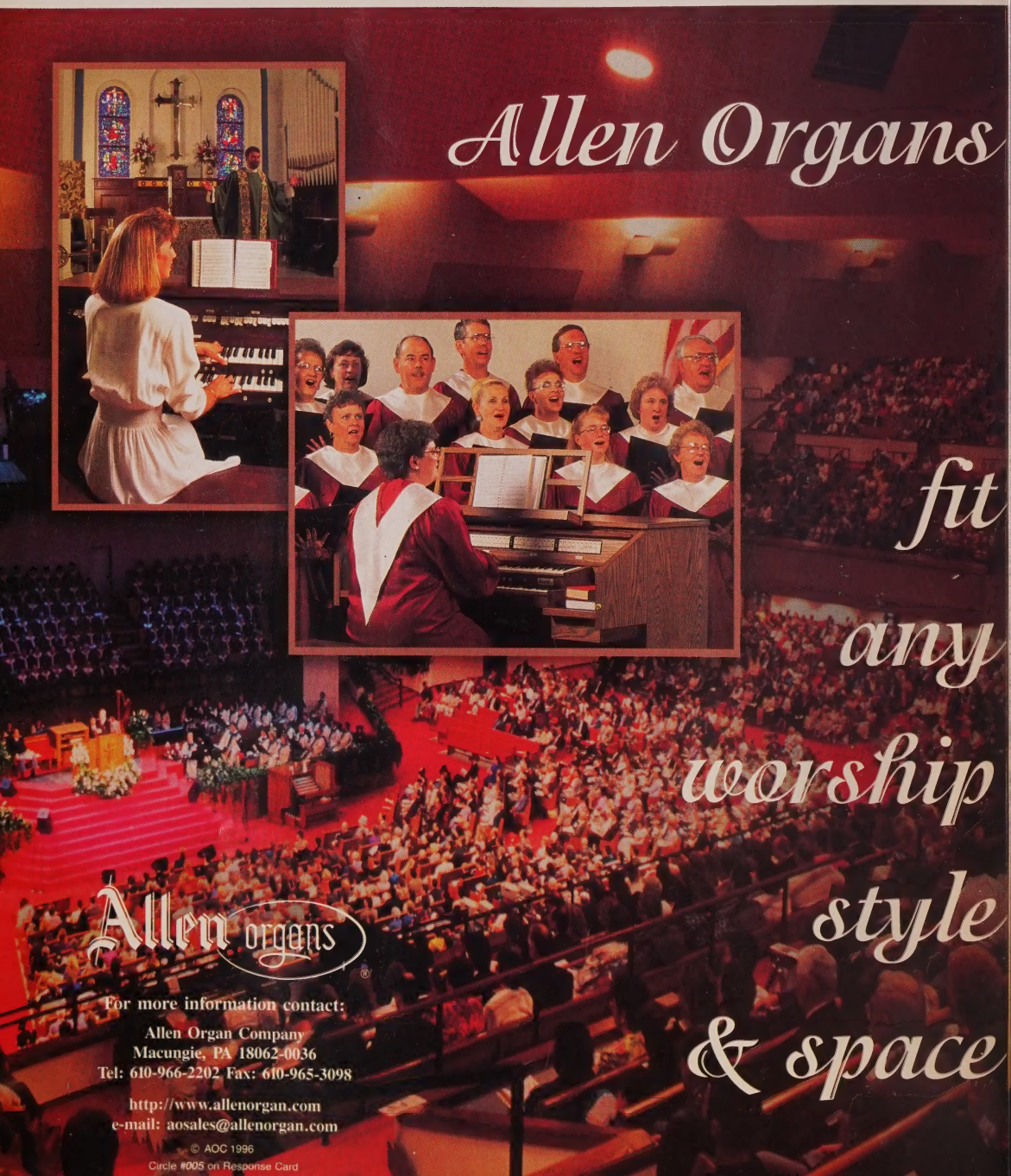

RETURNING TO THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD

Jesus Christ was the first to conquer death, the ruler of all the kings of the earth.

He loves us, and by his blood he set us free from our sins.

He has made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father.

To him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

"My sheep hear my voice," the Savior says. "I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand."

Surely goodness and mercy will follow us our whole life long, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Listen to this secret truth: We shall not all die, but when the last trumpet sounds we shall all be changed in an instant, as quickly as the blink of an eye. For when the trumpet sounds the dead will be raised, never to die again, and we shall all be changed. Our dead and decaying bodies will be changed into bodies that will not die or decay. The bodies we now have are weak and can die, but they will be changed into bodies that are eternal. Then the Scriptures will come true: "Death has lost the battle! Where is its victory? Where is its sting?" Sin is what gives death its sting, and the Law is the power behind sin. But thank God for letting our Lord Jesus Christ give us the victory!

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down
in green pastures: he leadeth me
beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me
in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art
with me; thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of
the LORD for ever.

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

I am Jesus' little lamb,
Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd
  Gently guides me,
Knows my need
  And well provides me,
Loves me every day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger,
  Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant
  Pastures leads me;
When I thirst, he bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am,
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my
  Short life is ended,
By his angel
  Host attended,
He shall fold me to his breast,
There within his arms to rest.

—Henriette L. von Hayn

Almighty God, you gave your Son into death for us and raised him from the grave victorious.

In him we have forgiveness, life, and resurrection from the dead.

As we now lay this body to its rest—earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust—we commend to you our brother/sister _____. *Keep* him/her *in the company of all your saints and, when Christ comes again in glory at the final trumpet's sound, grant to all your faithful people a joyful reunion in eternal joy and peace.*

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Rest eternal grant to this your child, O Lord.

Let light eternal shine!

And grant us who remain the grace to follow faithfully where Christ, our Shepherd, leads, that whether we live or die we are the Lord's.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The God of peace—who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant—make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Scripture readings found in this litany are from Psalm 23, Matthew 6, John 1, John 10, I Corinthians 15, Hebrews 13, and Revelation 1. ***Returning to the Shepherd's Fold*** is compiled by Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1995 by Creative Communications for the Parish, 10300 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63127. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. **CS-1**

Proverbs 23:22
Listen to your father; without him you would not exist.

Definition of a Father:

Faithful
Affectionate
Thoughtful
Honest
Enthusiastic
Responsible

and he knows how to fly a kite.

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. . . Samuel's mother made him a little coat.

1 Samuel 2:19

Mothers give
clothes for the body
hugs for the heart

Food for the soul

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Words of Encouragement

Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
Be still before the Lord,
and wait patiently for him.
Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you
the desires of your heart.

The Lord does not abandon
his faithful people;
he protects them always.
The Lord guides them safely
in the way they should go.
If they fall, they will not stay down,
because the Lord will help them up.

The Lord saves the righteous
and protects them
in time of trouble.
He helps them and rescues them
because they take refuge in him.

From Psalm 37

Humble yourselves
under the mighty hand of God,
that in due time he may exalt you.
Cast all your anxieties on him,
for he cares about you.
And after you have suffered
a little while,
the God of all grace,
who has called you
to his eternal glory in Christ,
will himself
restore, establish, and strengthen you.
To him be the dominion
forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:6-7, 10

The Lord is my Shepherd;

I shall not want.

Psalm 23:1

Daily Prayers

Morning

With confidence I greet another day, O Lord, sure of your care. According to your faithful promise, make all things work together for my good this day.

Give skill and wisdom to those who care for me. Make their minds clear, their decisions correct, and their hands sure.

Throughout the hours that lie ahead, let me feel your healing presence, and help me to be pleasant in all I say and do.

In the name of Jesus, my Savior, I await your promised blessings. **Amen.**

Meals

For those who made and served these gifts
and all whom you have sent
to show your care
receive my thanks, O gracious Lord,
and hear my earnest prayer:
Bless all your children everywhere,
and give us grace your gifts to share,
until we sing your praises there
at the eternal banquet of the King. **Amen.**

Evening

For all the blessings of this day I give you thanks, O God, for bearing with me in my need, forgiving all my wrong for Jesus' sake, and showing me your constant and unfailing love.

With confidence I close my eyes, trusting in your wakefulness. As once you raised up Jesus Christ, your Son, awaken me when night is past, to greet the opportunity of yet another day. In his dear name I pray. **Amen.**

God's Abiding Presence

Lord, you have examined me,
and you know me.
You know everything I do;
from far away you understand
all my thoughts.
You see me,
whether I am working or resting;
you know all my actions.
Even before I speak,
you already know what I will say.
You are all around me,
on every side; with your power
you protect me.
Your knowledge is overwhelming,
too deep for me to understand.
Where could I go
to escape from your Spirit?
Where could I get away
from your presence?
If I went up to heaven,
you would be there;
even if I lay down
in the world of the dead,
you would be there.
If I flew away beyond the east,
or lived in the farthest place
in the west,
you would be there to lead me,
you would be there to help me.
I could ask the darkness to hide me,
or the light around me to turn into night,
but even the darkness
is not dark for you,
and the night is as bright as the day.
When I awake, I am still with you!

From Psalm 139

This panel is blank for your use.
Personal notes may be hand written here.

The name of the Church or institution is imprinted here.

Tuesday

Dear Fred,
I'm sorry you were out of the room when I stopped by. Your therapy is going well ... that's great. You continue to be in my prayers.

Pastor Meier

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1-HC

This card will stand upright when folded.

The Pastor and People
of
Good Shepherd Church

join with you in prayer
at this time of your
illness.

May our Lord
Jesus Christ
grant you
complete healing.

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Good Shepherd Church
Rev. Christopher Strahan
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With our glad hosannas be the song begun:
"Glory, laud and honor unto David's Son!"
Let the gladsome tidings sound forth ev'rywhere:
God, his Word fulfilling, sends his royal Heir!
Nations, come, adore him; kneel before his throne;
Cast your crowns before him; worship Christ alone!

A Confession of Faith ..... based on Isaiah 53

P *For our sake, Jesus was despised and rejected,*
C a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity.
P *Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;*
C yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.
P *But he was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities.*
C Upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.
P *Out of his anguish he shall see light.*
C This righteous one shall make many righteous.
P *So shall he startle many nations.*
C Kings shall shut their mouths because of him.

Offering

Prayers ..... each petition ends with this response:

P *Let us pray to the Lord.*
C Son of David, hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction ..... from Matthew 20:25-28

P *Jesus said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave,*
C "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Closing Stanza ..... Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine!

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MC-P

... With Many Crowns

A Special Service For Lent

—With Many Crowns—

A Regal Crown

With Many Crowns .... Revelation 7:10b, 12; 21:3-4

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

P *Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb.*
C Amen! Blessing and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor and might, be to our God forever and ever! Amen!
P *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*

Crown him the virgin's Son, the God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his brow adorn;
Fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.

P *I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals.*
C "He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them.
P *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes.*
C "Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
P *"for the first things have passed away."*

Crown him the Lord of heav'n, enthroned in worlds above.
Crown him the King to whom is giv'n the wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns as thrones before him fall;
Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns for he is King of all.

Prayer of the Day

First Lesson ..... 2 Samuel 23:1-4

Psalm 132:1, 10-18 ..... spoken responsively

L *Lord, do not forget David and all the hardships he endured.*
C You made a promise to your servant David, a promise you will not take back:
L *"I will make one of your sons king, and he will rule after you. If your sons are true to my covenant and to the commands I give them, their sons, also, will succeed you for all time as kings."*
C The Lord has chosen Zion; he wants to make it his home:
L *"This is where I will live forever; this is where I want to rule.*
C "I will richly provide Zion with all she needs; I will satisfy her poor with food. I will bless her priests in all they do, and her people will sing and shout for joy.
L *"Here I will make one of David's descendants a great king; here I will preserve the rule of my chosen king.*
C "I will cover his enemies with shame, but his kingdom will prosper and flourish."

Second Lesson ..... Ephesians 1:15-21

Responsory ..... Hebrews 2:9

P *We see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels,*
C now crowned with glory and honor, because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Gospel ..... Luke 1:26-33

Hymn ..... Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Homily

—A Regal Crown—

Hymn ..... "Cast Your Crowns Before Him"

For our sakes the Sov'reign laid his glory by,
Came, obedient Servant, to the cross to die.
Thus did God exalt him, clothed him with renown:
In his hand the scepter, on his head the crown.
Nations, come, adore him; kneel before his throne;
Cast your crowns before him; worship Christ alone!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 *March* **Light** During Lent we rejoice to draw near to the light of Christ and put away the darkness of evil. *John 3:14-21*	**10 Delight** God created the world and humanity to be a joy and a delight. Our task is to allow God to transform us. *Ps. 30:2, 4-6, 11-13*	**11 Let Go And Let God** Jesus brings healing into our lives in ways we may not expect. "Give up your sins," he says. *John 5:1-3, 5-16*	**12 A Model** God is always ready to reach out and help us, even when we are doing wrong. Should we not do the same for others? *Psalm 145*	**13 Precious** God has not brought us out of slavery to abandon or destroy us. Remember that, especially in hard times. *Exodus 32:7-14*	**14 Refuge** The broken-hearted are especially dear to God. Seek refuge in God and you will surely find comfort. *Psalm 34:17-23*	**15 Unity** Jesus was—and still is—a source of division as well as unity. Not everyone believes in him, but he unites those who do. *John 7:40-53*
16 Glory Death is not the last word for us, thanks to Jesus. As we follow him, we will be led through suffering to glory. *John 12:20-33*	**17 Sinners** We are a sinful people, inclined to do evil, even when we manage to avoid it. The best of us must ask for God's mercy. *John 8:1-11*	**18 Renewal** In the midst of changing our lives to conform to Jesus' way, we may feel lost. Have faith: God will support you. *Numbers 21:4-9*	**19 Sheep Astray** Thank God we have a faithful Savior who did not turn away from God's will—or from our need. *Isaiah 53:3-6*	**20 Truth** Keeping one's heart open to the truth is no easy task, for truth can be unpleasant. But truth is Christ's gift to us. *John 8:51-59*	**21 Safe** God is not absent during our times of trial and distress. Call on the Lord and he will answer. *Psalm 18:2-7*	**22 One For All** The renewal of our lives is God's work, not simply our own; we need to be willing to be changed. *Ezekiel 37:21-28*
23 Passion Abandoned by the crowds, Jesus gave up everything in order to fulfill the will of the Father and bring us to life. *Mark 14:1--15:47*	**24 Excess** Christ's overwhelming love is reflected in Mary's lavish anointing of Jesus. We love because he loved us first. *John 12:1-11*	**25 God's Servant** When we are willing to live for God and do his will, then our faith will be tested and strengthened. *Isaiah 49:1-6*	**26 Our Help** Though everything and everyone else fail us, God is our help. We need to rely on the same faith Christ relied on. *Isaiah 50:4-9*			

The Paschal Triduum

from Maundy Thursday evening through Easter Sunday evening

The Lord's Supper

The gift of Christ's Body and Blood strengthens us for acts of loving service that will define us as Jesus' followers. By the gift of his life for us, we are enabled to give our lives for others.

1 Cor. 11:23-26

Into The Tomb

The suffering and death that Jesus endured for our sakes was the climax of his ministry, but it was not the end. He gave up everything so that he could give us everything. By his cross we are set free.

John 18:1--19:42

Christ Is Risen

With Christ's resurrection, everything has changed: death is not final and sin does not triumph. We have a new choice to make: accept the joy of the new life Christ has won for us. Sing alleluia!

Colossians 3:1-4

Traditional Lenten Disciplines

Worship & Meditation: During Lent, many congregations offer added opportunities for public worship and encourage their members to more frequent and fervent prayer, Bible study and private meditation on the saving love of God in Jesus Christ.

Fasting & Abstinence: As an aid to devotional life, many Christians give up certain foods or activities through Lent. Some also set aside certain days (Wednesdays or Fridays) for more rigorous fasting in the Lord's honor.

Almsgiving: Moved by the sacrifice of Christ, many Christians combine almsgiving with fasting, giving to the poor the money they saved by eating, drinking, or buying less as they rely more upon God's abundant grace.

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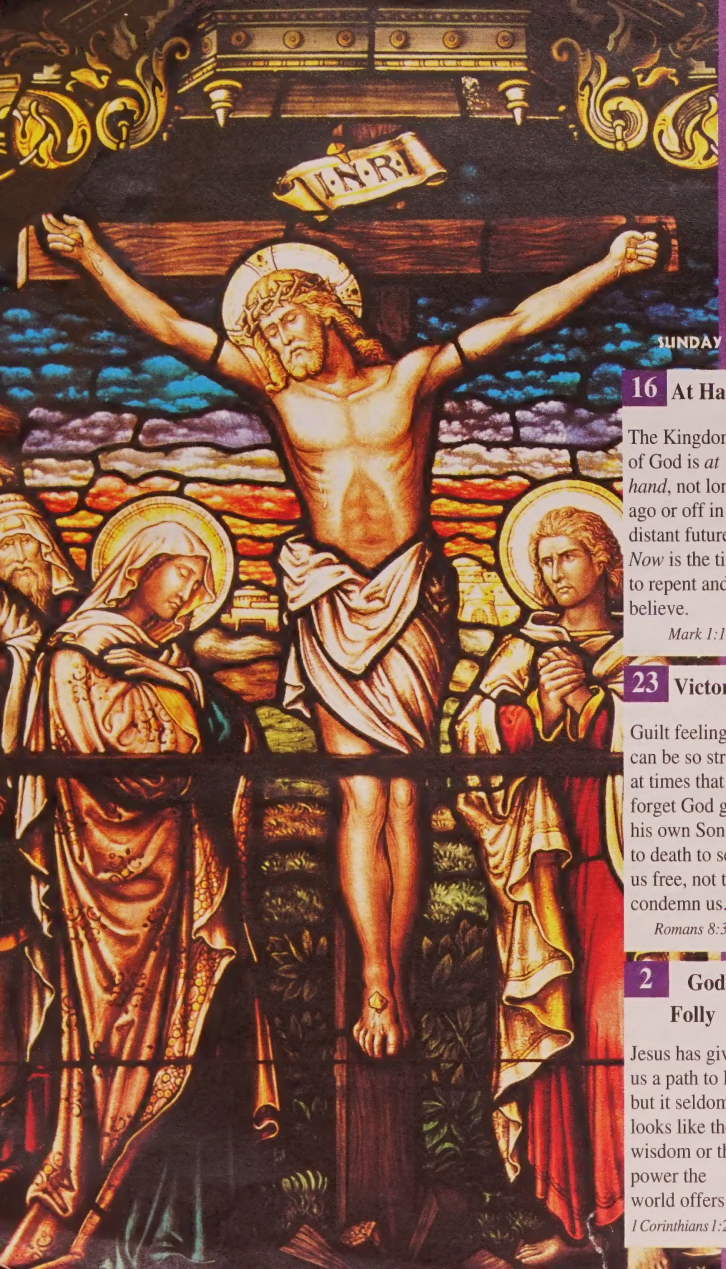

1997 LENTEN CALENDAR

Daily Scripture and Reflection for the Sacred Season

SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY

12 *February* **Ash Wednesday**

The time is now: accept the gift of divine life that God is offering to you today..

2 Corinthians 5:20--6:2

13 Choice

Jesus teaches us to follow his way because he knows we have a choice. May we all choose his way each day this Lent.

Luke 9:22-25

14 Fasting

By living justly and sharing what we have with the needy, we offer God a fast of mercy and love.

Isaiah 58:1-9

15 A Full Life

The reward for living as God desires is a full life, one far more satisfying than the world can offer us.

Isaiah 58:9-14

16 At Hand

The Kingdom of God is *at hand*, not long ago or off in the distant future. *Now* is the time to repent and believe.

Mark 1:12-15

17 Time To Review

Each of us must answer this question for ourselves: how am I responding to those in need around me?

Matthew 25:31-46

18 God's Holy Word

Lent is a good time for regular reading of and prayer with God's Word as it is found in the Bible.

Isaiah 55:10-11

19 Listen

The words of Jesus are words of more than a prophet. When he speaks to us, we are called to listen to him.

Luke 11:29-32

20 God's Providence

As we pray, we need to remember the times that God has answered our prayers, and be grateful.

Matthew 7:7-12

21 Time For Mercy

God looks into our hearts. What will God see in yours this day: loving mercy or hardness?

Matthew 5:20-26

22 Good Shepherd

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, leads to salvation all who are willing to follow him faithfully.

Psalm 23:1-6

23 Victory

Guilt feelings can be so strong at times that we forget God gave his own Son up to death to set us free, not to condemn us.

Romans 8:31-34

24 Good Measure

Jesus says that the generosity of your heart determines how abundantly you will receive God's mercy.

Luke 6:36-38

25 Repent

The message of repentance is simple: stop doing evil and start doing good. That is how we turn to the Lord.

Isaiah 1:10, 16-20

26 The Way To Greatness

Jesus tells us that to serve is the way to greatness in the kingdom. Whom can you serve today?

Matthew 20:17-28

27 Warning

The parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man compels us not to turn our backs on the suffering of the poor.

Luke 16:19-31

28 Harvest of Plenty

When we strive to live as true children of God, the words of Jesus are a comfort, not a threat.

Matthew 21:33-46

1 *March* **True Kindness**

God longs to give us mercy and forgiveness. All we need do is ask for it—and then accept it.

Psalm 103:1-4, 9-12

2 God's Folly

Jesus has given us a path to life, but it seldom looks like the wisdom or the power the world offers.

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

3 Lead On

In the midst of our daily lives with all their trials, we can be sure that God will lead us along the right path.

Psalm 43:3-4

4 77 Times

Jesus urges us to forgive "from the heart." If we truly desire to forgive, God will make it happen.

Matthew 18:21-35

5 Abiding By The Law

God's law has been revealed to us for a reason: it will lead us to the fullness of life and happiness.

Matthew 5:17-19

6 A Voice

If some grudge has hardened your heart against God, let go of it today so that you may hear his voice in your life.

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9

7 The Love Of God

Express your love for God this day for all the wonderful blessings you have already received.

Mark 12:28-34

8 Source Of Mercy

Nothing we can do will achieve what God is willing to give us: healing and forgiveness for our sins.

Luke 18:9-14

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2-AA

My God, Why?

A BOOK OF DAILY PRAYERS FOR LENT
BASED ON PSALM 22

—BY ARDEN W. MEAD—

—ASH WEDNESDAY—

MY GOD, WHY?

MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

The words, of course, are familiar. Jesus spoke them from the cross. But the words were familiar to God's people long before the crucifixion of Christ. They are the first sentence of Psalm 22—often referred to as "The Crucifixion Psalm" not only because our Lord spoke its opening question from the cross, but also because in so many ways that psalm seems to describe our Lord's crucifixion, often in striking detail—pain of body, agony of soul, starkness of surroundings, submission to the will of God and hope for a blessed outcome—even though it was written centuries before our Lord's death and resurrection.

The daily prayers in this booklet invite you to use these familiar words as a Lenten opportunity to join your Savior ... and the ancient psalmist ... and hosts of believers down through the centuries ... in pouring out your soul to God.

Begin by reading through the whole psalm now—the top-of-the-page readings that begin each daily devotion in this booklet, in order.

Jesus' Sixth Word From The Cross

"It is finished."
Jn. 19:30

What is finished? The suffering? The pain? Yes.
But the devil is finished too. Jesus won!

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LENT

—THURSDAY—

GOD

GOD

This is the proper place to begin my Lenten observance. Not by considering myself—my needs and wants and hurts and pains, my disappointments and discouragements, my shortcomings and my sinfulness—but by focusing on GOD.

By seeing you as holy, God. By seeing you as the source of my life and the existence of everything. By seeing myself as responsible to you. By seeing, therefore, the seriousness of my sin. Any sin of mine, whether it overwhelms me with its enormity or escapes me as I shrug it off—is an affront against your holiness, GOD.

Let me begin this sacred season by putting you in your place ... which will also put me in mine.

"YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS."

—FRIDAY—

GOD ... MY GOD

MY GOD

What a difference one word can make! And what wondrous assurance that one word provides! As I draw near to your holiness this Lent, O God, I approach not an angry judge or an indifferent deity, but one who loves me personally—so much that your own dear Son was given that I might be named a child of God.

And so I am. And so, with all that troubles me, I come to you ... not just to God, remote and holy, utterly removed from human life ... but to *my* God.

You invite me to take you personally, my God. You allow me to unload my problems and concerns on you. And, for the sake of Jesus Christ, you accept them as your own.

Now I may begin to pray ... as Jesus did, and the ancient psalmist ... for now there is a face to behold, and a beating heart.

OH, MY GOD, I TRUST IN YOU!

—SATURDAY—

FORSAKEN

WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

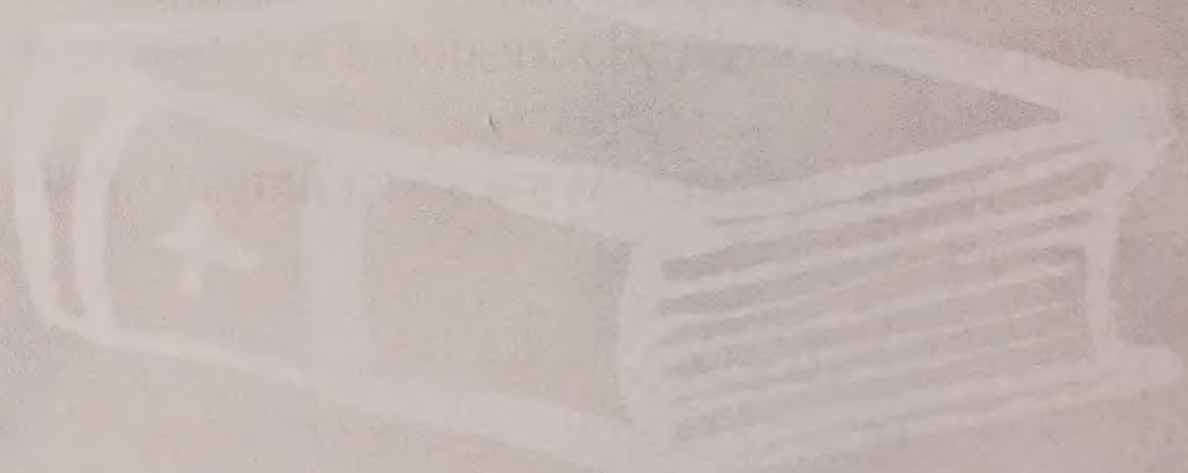
This is the prayer my Savior prayed, while dying on the cross. These are the words he shouted into the darkness ... and, when he did, there was no immediate answer. My Lord cried out ... into silence.

Although it wasn't evident right then, this Lent the answer to his prayer will become increasingly obvious to me, in a way that is almost beyond my comprehension. Your answer to my Savior's dying prayer, my God, will make a difference in my approach to every other prayer that I shall ever offer ... including this one. It will make a difference in the way I see your response to my prayers and needs, and even the way I await the blessed outcome when your response is not immediate.

At the foot of the cross, as my Savior prays, I realize the answer:

JESUS WAS FORSAKEN,
SO THAT I MIGHT NEVER BE!

MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!
WHY MUST I BE FORSAKEN?
WHY DO I CRY ALONE,
BY TROUBLES OVERTAKEN?
ASSURE ME IN MY NEED
WHAT YOUR SURE WORD HAS TAUGHT,
YOUR FAITHFUL, STEADFAST LOVE.
MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!



—MONDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK—

DAY AND NIGHT

DURING THE DAY I CALL TO YOU, MY GOD, BUT YOU DO NOT ANSWER; I CALL AT NIGHT, BUT GET NO REST.

Am I really as persistent in my devotion to you as I claim to be, my God? Do I really call to you day and night ... or only when I need something really badly?

And are you really as elusive as I imply? Is it true that you do not answer, my God? True, as well, that I receive no respite whatsoever?

Or is the problem my impatience? My God, there are times when it is hard to be patient, when it hurts!

You understand that, don't you? For there are times when you have called to me, and received no answer ...

AND YOU HAVE BEEN PATIENT WITH ME!

—TUESDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK—

YOUR KINGDOM

BUT YOU ARE ENTHRONED AS THE HOLY ONE.

My God, in the midst of my need I have not forgotten who you are. I harbor no delusions that you are somehow unable to deal with my difficulties. On the contrary, I readily confess your prominence and power. You can do whatever I pray!

It is for that very reason that I come to you so persistently ... and find myself confused when no answer seems forthcoming. I know that you can do whatever I pray.

And so the question remains, "Why?" Why don't you do whatever I pray? There's more going on here than raw power, isn't there? There is something to do with being in charge. You are enthroned; you are the potentate.

And that means your will is superior to mine ... no matter how I feel.

YOUR KINGDOM COME!

GOD, FORSAKEN

THE ONE WHOM ISRAEL PRAISES.

My God, have I forgotten this? In the midst of my own problems and pain, my concern for pleas unheard and prayers unanswered, have I forgotten the praise which you deserve ... constantly ... wholeheartedly ... in every circumstance?

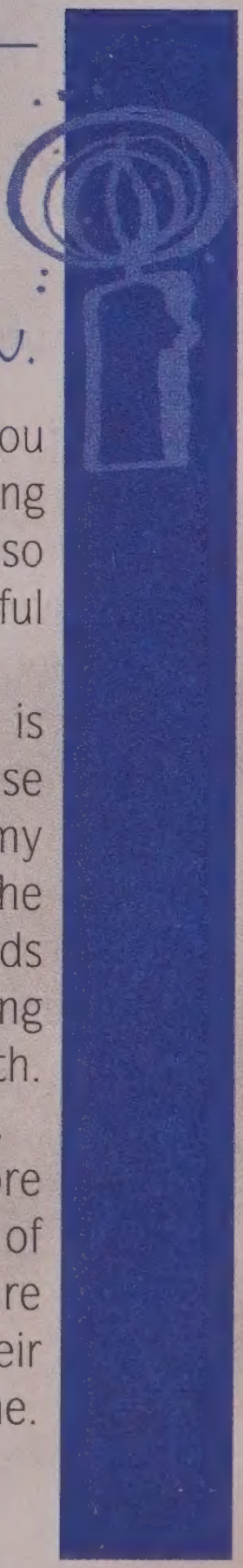
Have I forsaken you, my God?

Surround me, then, with those who find it easier to remember, whose very presence can encourage my own praise. For if I isolate myself from them, my God, I may have turned my back on you. My own silence may speak louder than the praise which you deserve.

MY GOD, HAVE I FORSAKEN YOU?

—THURSDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK—

I AM NOT ALONE



OUR ANCESTORS PUT THEIR TRUST IN YOU.

I am not alone, my God! Not only have you surrounded me with faithful saints who sing your praise right now, but you have also made me part of a long history of faithful saints. I am not alone.

The person who first prayed Psalm 22 is one of my ancestors-in-the-the-faith, whose words so often and so accurately mirror my own. The saints who stood at the foot of the cross and heard my Jesus cry those words again, and understood what he was praying there—they too are part of my family of faith. I stand at the foot of the cross with them.

As well as those thousands both before and after Christ who joined the praying of this prayer and made it their own. I share their agony, their need, their hope, their faith—for you have given all of them to me.

I AM NOT ALONE!

—FRIDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK—

THE GOD WHO SAVES

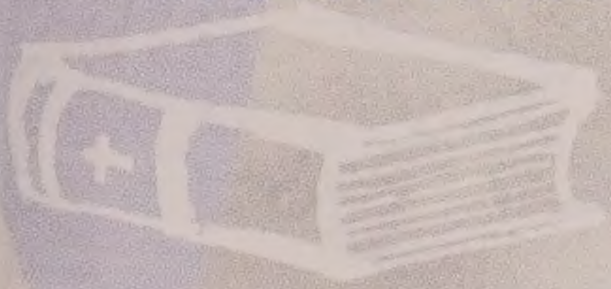
THEY TRUSTED YOU, AND YOU SAVED THEM. THEY CALLED TO YOU AND ESCAPED FROM DANGER.

I am not alone, my God. I can be sure of that because of the history in which you have placed me—a history involving not only faithful saints who trusted you and prayed ... but a history in which you yourself were active. You answered their prayers!

You have a reputation for being God the Savior, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who raised him from the dead. Yours is a reputation that reaches back to include Noah and the ark, Abraham and Isaac in their wanderings, Joseph sold into slavery, Moses and the people of the Exodus, Deborah, Samson, Gideon, David, Elijah and Elisha, Jonah and Daniel, Peter and Paul.

There is so much I can learn from all of them.

MY GOD, YOU ANSWERED THEIR PRAYERS!



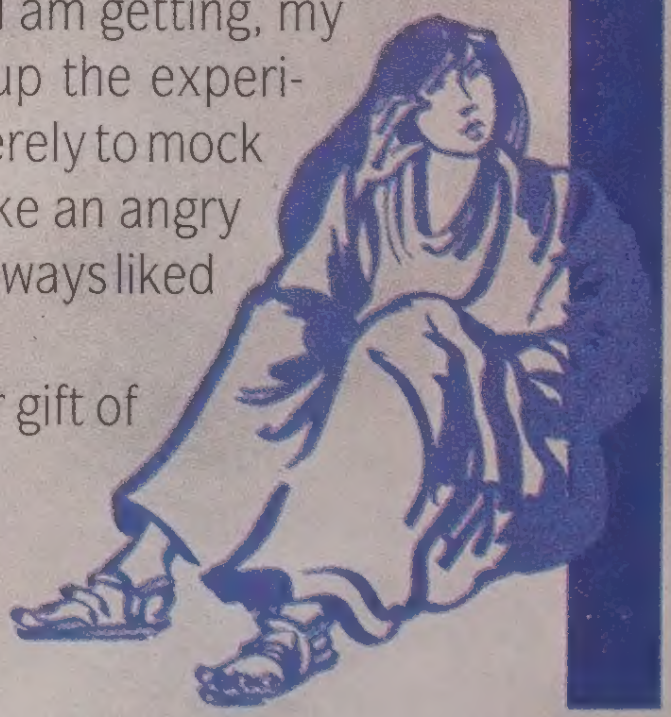
WHERE ARE YOU?

THEY TRUSTED YOU AND WERE NOT DISAPPOINTED.

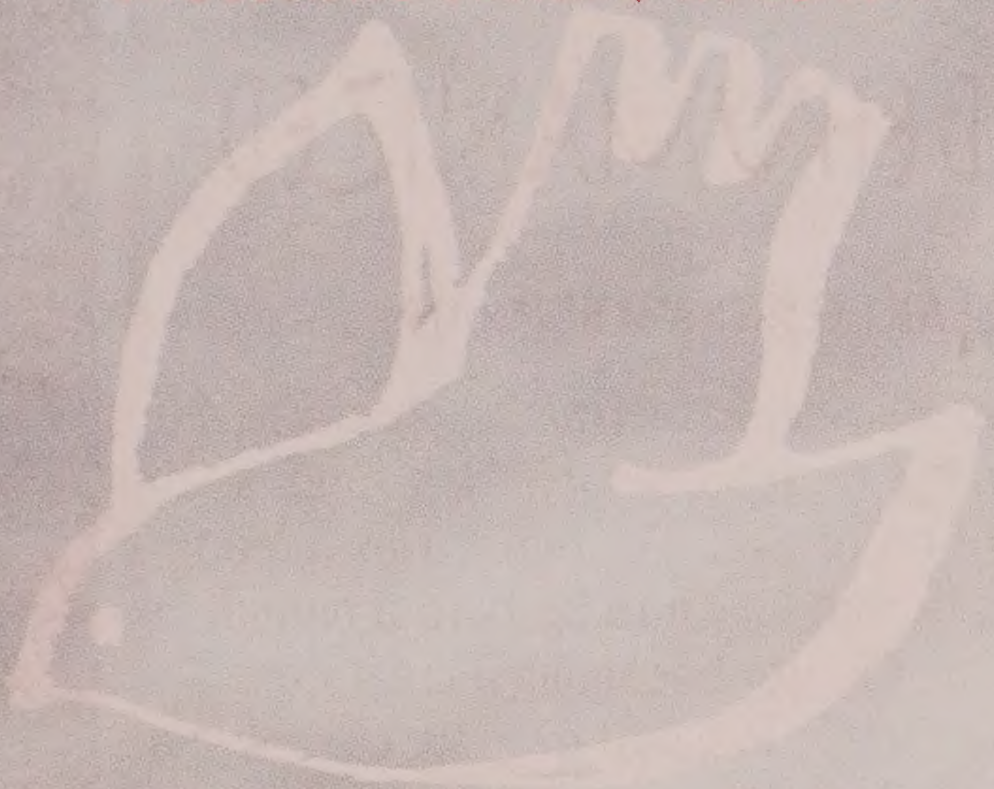
Lest the point be lost in all of this, my God, let me state it bluntly. If you did such wondrous things for my ancestors-in-the-faith, showing yourself to be their ever-present help and answering their prayers ... where are you now? Why aren't you treating me like that?

Perhaps our ancestors who put their trust in you were not disappointed ... but I am! I had expected more of you than what I am getting, my God. Are you holding up the experience of my ancestors merely to mock me? Must I stomp off like an angry child and mutter, "God always liked you best"?

Or am I misusing your gift of their example?



THEY WERE NOT FORSAKEN!



MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!
YOUR GRACIOUS PRESENCE LEND ME;
OH, LEAD YOUR HELPLESS CHILD;
YOUR HOLY SPIRIT SEND ME
THAT I MY COURSE MAY RUN.
OH, BE MY LIGHT, MY LOT,
MY STAFF, MY ROCK, MY SHIELD.
MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!

—MONDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK—

DEHUMANIZED

BUT I AM LESS THAN HUMAN.

Did Jesus really feel this way? He was, after all, more than human. He was—and is—the very Son of God. For him it was already a terrible comedown to be born a human being, the Creator becoming a creature.

But then to feel that even that dignity had been removed!

Are there times when I feel "less than human"? A hospital nightgown leaves little room for modesty, and many of the procedures done there seem somehow to dehumanize. But they, at least, are done to help. What Jesus endured was done precisely to belittle and eventually destroy.

My God, are human beings worth that much?—That Jesus would lower himself that far for them? ... for us? ...

FOR ME?

—TUESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK—

LIKE A WORM

I AM A WORM, DESPISED AND SCORNED BY EVERYONE.

That far my Savior lowered himself for me! Like a worm, he partook of the dust from which I came, to which I must return. Like a worm, he joined me in my groveling; he squirmed to share my agony; he laid himself open to the role of victim.

Like a worm, he was despised and scorned by *everyone*.

Everyone? No, wait! That need not be the case. That should not be the case. That will not be the case, if I can make a difference.

Lowly as I am, my God, give me the backbone to stand up for him! When Christ is yet despised and scorned, let me be the exception!

FOR HIM!

—WEDNESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK—

A PLACE OF LAUGHTER

ALL WHO SEE ME MAKE FUN OF ME; THEY STICK OUT THEIR TONGUES AND SHAKE THEIR HEADS.

It's hard to imagine Calvary as a place of laughter. I tend to regard it as a solemn scene, and want to picture it still and dignified, with sad and stately background music rising to underscore the gravity of what is happening here. Hush! The very Son of God is dying here! This is history's most serious moment!

But in truth, Calvary was instead a place of raucous laughter. People made fun of the Son of God, in some very obnoxious ways. There was shouting and jeering, probably even booing and razzing. Those who had refused to take him seriously in life continued their belittling ... and those who had taken him far too seriously now joined them.

HUSH!!!

—THURSDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK—

PROVE YOURSELF

"YOU RELIED ON THE LORD," THEY SAY. "WHY DOESN'T HE SAVE YOU?"

My God, do you feel that someone is always asking you to prove yourself? Or more than asking—demanding that you do so?

Does it infuriate your holiness that we puny human beings—worms in your view, no doubt—have the effrontery to think that, unless you do what we demand, the way we demand it, you somehow cease to exist?—Or cease, at least, to be significant? Must you always fit our criteria?

And do we tend to think that there is only one way you can save us from dire circumstances? (That way, of course, would be the one that we had predetermined.) Are you so limited?

OR ARE WE?

—FRIDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK—

DO YOU LIKE ME?

"IF THE LORD LIKES YOU, WHY DOESN'T HE HELP YOU?"

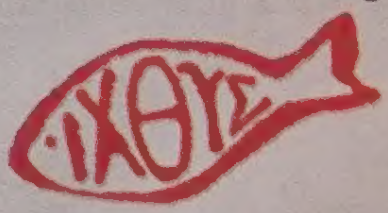
Do you like me, Lord? Have you helped me? Do I need to be dragged to the foot of the cross again and again to see that it is so?

The answer to all of those questions is YES, isn't it?

Even when I appear to be a worm, somehow you find a way to like me. Your Son bent down that low, down to the very dust of earth, to show your care and render your help.

I can understand how difficult that is for you, my God, by turning the question of the taunters back on them, and on myself: "If the Lord likes you, why aren't you rendering help?" Is it arrogant on our parts to assume that your answer will always somehow drop from heaven, pristine and perfect? Are we unwilling to get our own hands dirty to become involved in your answer to the prayer of the needy? Are there other people whom you like, my God, who need your help ... for whom I might be part of your divine answer?

SHOW ME!



WHY ... DO YOU?

"WHY?"

The question persists, doesn't it? And as the darkness deepens, it is cast in the negative: "Why doesn't God? ... Why doesn't he help you? Why doesn't he save you?" But once again I need to turn that emphasis around, and have the questions asked from the other direction. "Why do you, my God?"

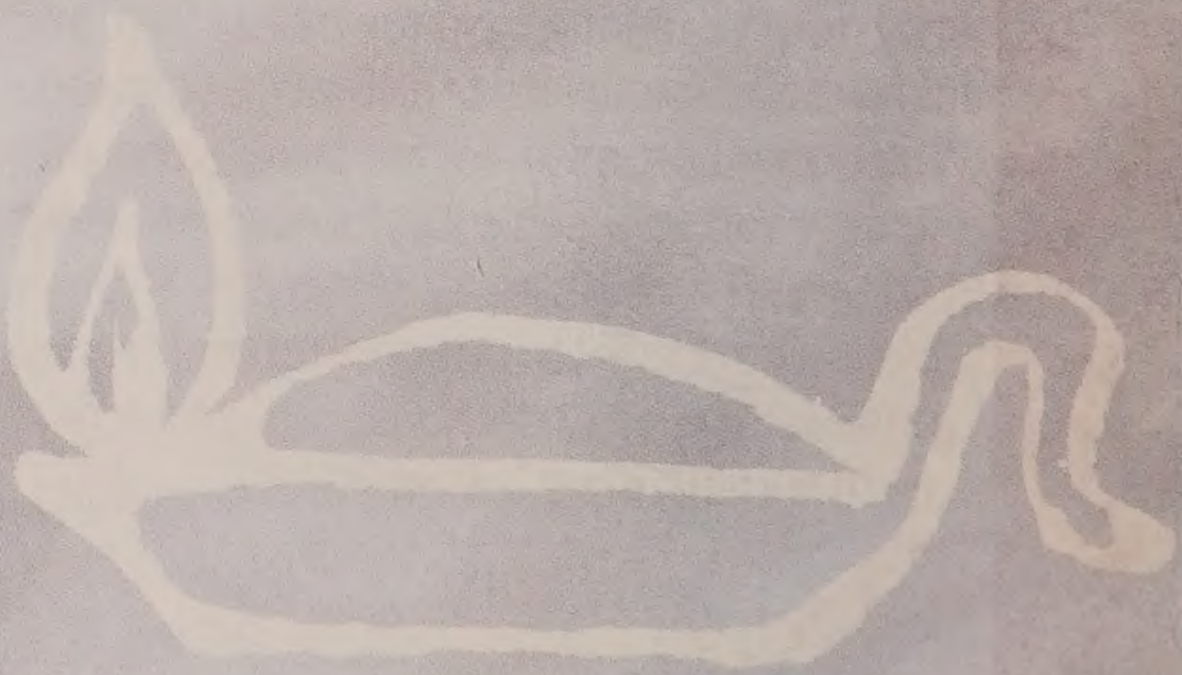
Why do you want me as your child? Why do you even notice I exist? Why do you care? Why do you offer me your own dear Son, and let me be a beneficiary of all that he endured? Why do you promise, for his sake, to be with me now and to receive me forever into everlasting life?

And why do I fail to notice all of that, and to appreciate it? Why do I join my very tormentors in turning my back on you?

WHY?

—THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT—

MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!
TAKE NOT YOUR SPIRIT FROM ME;
DO NOT ALLOW THE NIGHT
OF SIN TO OVERCOME ME.
INCREASE MY FEEBLE FAITH,
WHICH YOU YOURSELF HAVE WROUGHT.
GRANT ME YOUR STRENGTH AND POW'R.
MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!



—MONDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK—

ME, MYSELF AND I

IT WAS YOU ...

With all the problems I confront, my God, is it possible for me to get so hung up on myself that "I" and "me" and "my" and "myself" are my most common pronouns? That very sentence proved it to be so, didn't it?

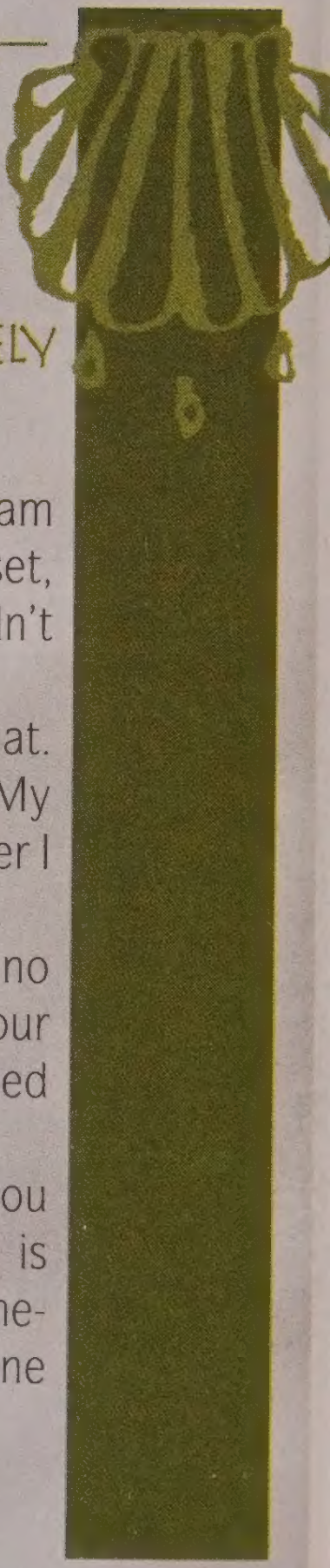
Perhaps a focal shift is needed—away from "I" and "me" and "my" and "myself"—and onto YOU. You, after all, are the true focus of this psalm, of this season, of the scriptures, of my life at last, and all of history ... eternity as well.

So keep me focused properly, my God. Help me to look beyond myself, and my own needs and wants and pains, to see the more important reality—bigger than "I" and "me" and "my" and "myself" ...

YOU!

—TUESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK—

BIRTH ... REBIRTH



IT WAS YOU WHO BROUGHT ME SAFELY THROUGH BIRTH.

"What did I do to deserve this?" I am prone to ask. And when I am really upset, it may come out sarcastically: "Well, I didn't ask to be born!"

No, I didn't. I had nothing to do with that. Obviously, I couldn't possibly have. My birth—and so my life, therefore, however I appreciate or despise it—is your doing.

And you did it very well! There is no reason I should even exist, except for your doing. Biology works because you planned it so.

And so does theology. The rebirth you have granted me by your Holy Spirit is likewise something I do not deserve, something I did nothing to earn. There is only one reason I was brought into being at all:

IT WAS YOU!

—WEDNESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK—

YOU KEPT ME SAFE

AND WHEN I WAS A BABY, YOU KEPT ME SAFE.

If being born is something a person tends to take for granted, making it through childhood may be another. One just assumes the parents who created a new life will be there to care for it, especially during those very early helpless years.

But is that something to be taken for granted? So many parents don't, or can't. So many children make it anyway, through the kind care of others.

And through your providence as well, my God. Why does eating make children grow? Why do vitamins and minerals provide the things they need? Why do minds mature as well?

Lest I forget, and let another day go by oblivious, let me remember thankfully:

YOU KEPT ME SAFE!

MY GOD ... ALWAYS

I HAVE RELIED ON YOU SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN, AND YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MY GOD.

"My God, my God," I cry ... still, this third week in Lent. That very fact can be counted as a blessing. For even as time goes by, your love and care for me do not grow old, or cold. You are as faithful now as you were three weeks ago ... and farther back than that. For as far in the past as I can remember, in fact, I have been able to call you my God.

And you have called me your child.

Others are not always as reliable, nor am I. Despite our good intentions (when we have good intentions), we do not always follow through as we ought. Our needs and wants get in the way; our weaknesses inhibit us.

But you can be counted on, my God. You have demonstrated that fact not only in my life and my experience, but also in the life and experience of Jesus Christ, my Lord. In him I truly see your faithfulness.

YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MY GOD.

TROUBLE IS NEAR

DO NOT STAY AWAY FROM ME! TROUBLE IS NEAR, AND THERE IS NO ONE TO HELP.

If my experience of you in the past has been so positive, my God, then why do I continue to feel forsaken?

I know. It is because of the troubles I face. Whatever you have done for me in the past, I still have a tendency to ask, "But what have you done for me lately?" or, more urgently, "What are you doing for me now?"

The troubles I experience are real, you know. Of course you know, for you know everything. Trouble is near, that is true ...

But then why do I jump to the hopeless conclusion that "there is no one to help"? Do I fail to see Jesus Christ suffering with me, for me? Do I fail to know the power of his presence?

MY GOD, HELP!

—SATURDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK—

BULLS AND LIONS

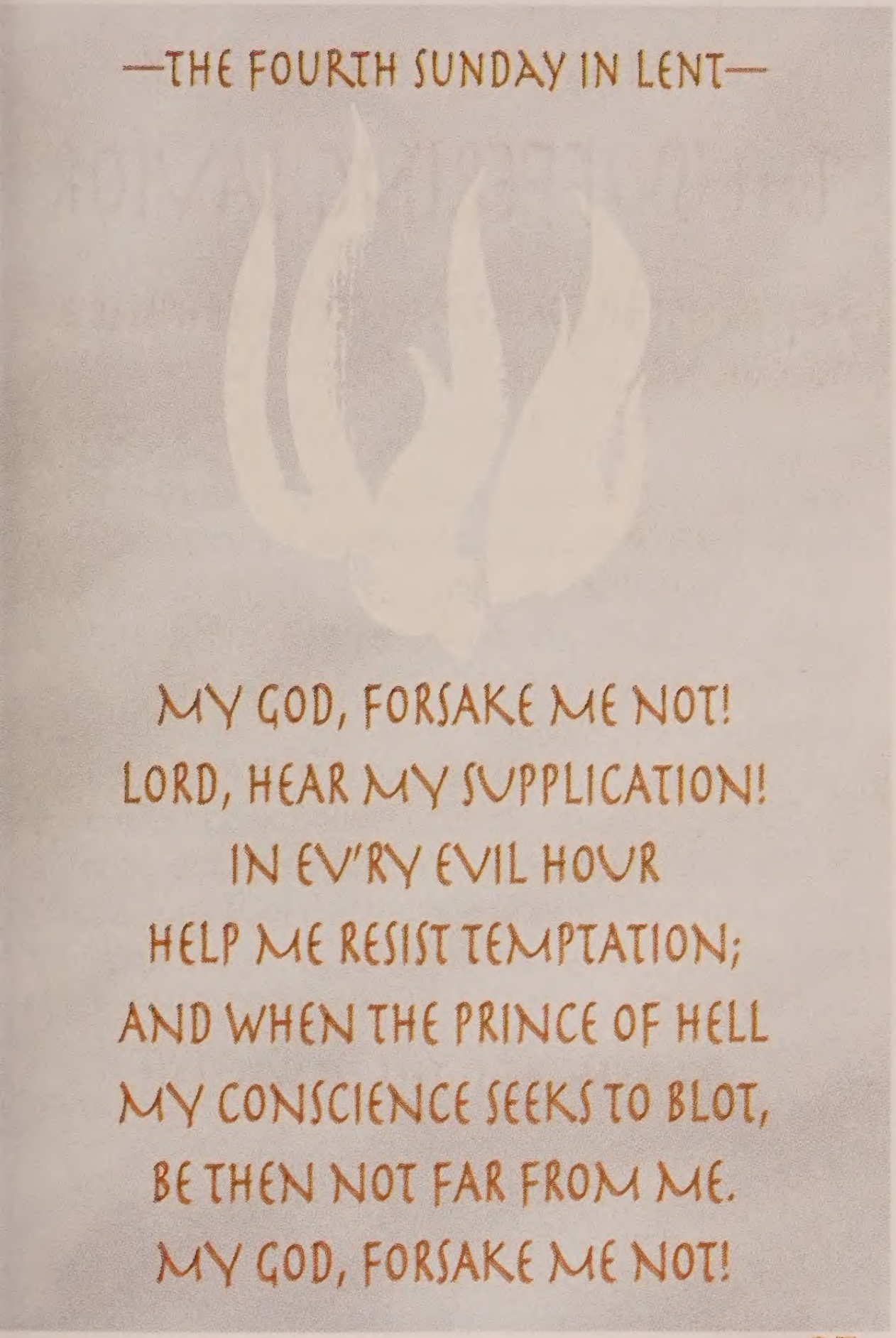
MANY ENEMIES SURROUND ME LIKE BULLS; THEY ARE ALL AROUND ME, LIKE FIERCE BULLS FROM THE LAND OF BASHAN. THEY OPEN THEIR MOUTHS LIKE LIONS, ROARING AND TEARING AT ME.

Is it, actually, the multiplicity of my problems that finally gets me down?—That there seem to be so many of them? And that they seem to loom so large? And threaten so personally?

Not just "bulls" but "bulls of Bashan"—the really big and nasty kind. Not just something growling in the darkness undefined, but "lions"—kings of beasts, ferocious and frightening. And not just in my path, ahead of me, but all around me, everywhere, leaving no escape, no place to hide.

This week in Lent began so well ... what happened as the days went by?

HAVE I LOST SIGHT OF YOU?



MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!
LORD, HEAR MY SUPPLICATION!
IN EV'RY EVIL HOUR
HELP ME RESIST TEMPTATION;
AND WHEN THE PRINCE OF HELL
MY CONSCIENCE SEEKS TO BLOT,
BE THEN NOT FAR FROM ME.
MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!

—MONDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK—

THE SUFFERING SAVIOR

MY STRENGTH IS GONE, GONE LIKE WATER SPILLED ON THE GROUND.

I sense my Savior's sufferings here. I suspect that whatever your ancient psalmist described of old, my Savior felt it personally. Whatever I experience, my Savior knows that too.

"Don't cry over spilled milk," the saying goes. The fact remains, however, that milk spilled cannot be retrieved. It's lost, gone.

And there are times I feel like that as well.

Yet I am not alone, my God. Your Son has joined me in this suffering. Line by line the pains the psalmist portrayed found their fulfillment in him. When he died, in fact, and a spear was thrust into his side, water did spill out on the ground, along with blood.

LIKE MINE, HIS SUFFERING WAS REAL!

—TUESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK—

SYMPTOMS OF SORROW

ALL MY BONES ARE OUT OF JOINT; MY HEART IS LIKE MELTED WAX. MY THROAT IS AS DRY AS DUST, AND MY TONGUE STICKS TO THE ROOF OF MY MOUTH.

It's not just one thing, is it? But a multitude. The symptoms of sorrow pile up almost faster than one can describe them; their descriptions cascade over one another as if each is rushing to be first in line, more painful than the rest

Under such circumstances, it's easy to feel sorry for oneself, my God, to solicit pity by trying to wring the crying towel dry.

Until I remember that—however real or allegorical these things are for me—they are precisely, and literally, what my Savior suffered in my stead. "I thirst," he cried, heart pounding, sinews stretched, throat parched—the kind of thirst that I shall never understand, never experience.

For he was suffering not many problems one atop another, but all of them, and all together, all at once.

I UNDERSTAND!

—WEDNESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK—

DEAD IN THE DUST

YOU HAVE LEFT ME FOR DEAD IN THE DUST.

I act as though being "left for dead in the dust" is an unexpected punishment, an undeserved fate. But I know better. For I have heard your Lenten voice, my God, boom forth the outcome of that primal sin of which I also have a share: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Oh yes, my God, I am. And so I shall.

Yet is the accusation truly fair, that you are the one somehow responsible for my predicament? It was you, after all, who fashioned me from dust, this dust to which I shall return.

The fault, of course, is not with dust, but with myself. It wasn't Adam's clay that did him in, but Adam's greed ... and doubt ... and disobedience ... and sin.

I DESERVE IT!

—THURSDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK—

I AM THERE

BRUTAL ENEMIES ATTACK ME, LIKE A PACK OF DOGS; THEY TEAR AT MY HANDS AND MY FEET.

Especially in these words, my God, the Church throughout the centuries has seen the suffering of Jesus Christ, described in pictures almost too accurate to be an accident.

Our Lord's arrest and trials—"like a pack of dogs" ... the flogging he endured, and mockery and hatred—"brutal" ... and finally the act of crucifixion itself—the nails driven, the cross upraised and jolted into place ... and the tearing points of contact—"hands and feet" ... Christ's experiences are reflected in this psalm.

My God, I have been transported there—whatever I endure, he suffered more—more painfully, more really...

AND I AM THERE!

—FRIDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK—

INSULT TO INJURY

ALL MY BONES CAN BE SEEN. MY ENEMIES LOOK AT ME AND STARE.

It's bad enough that Jesus Christ, the holy Son of God, had to suffer all that he did and the way that he did ... but to add insult to injury (one time when that expression is quite literally apt), it was done publicly. The Son of God was hung out like a banner, stretched out like a billboard, held aloft like booty snatched. Embarrassing!

And I complain? I act as though, somehow, my God, you are making a spectacle of me. As though my faults should be glossed over, my iniquities condoned, my trespasses made light of, my sin hidden from view.

But that is not how it happens, is it? Oh, my sin is forgiven, certainly ... but not lightly or easily. Jesus suffers publicly to make it so.

BEHOLD!

—SATURDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK—

I KNOW WHERE I AM

THEY GAMBLE FOR MY CLOTHES AND DIVIDE THEM AMONG THEMSELVES.

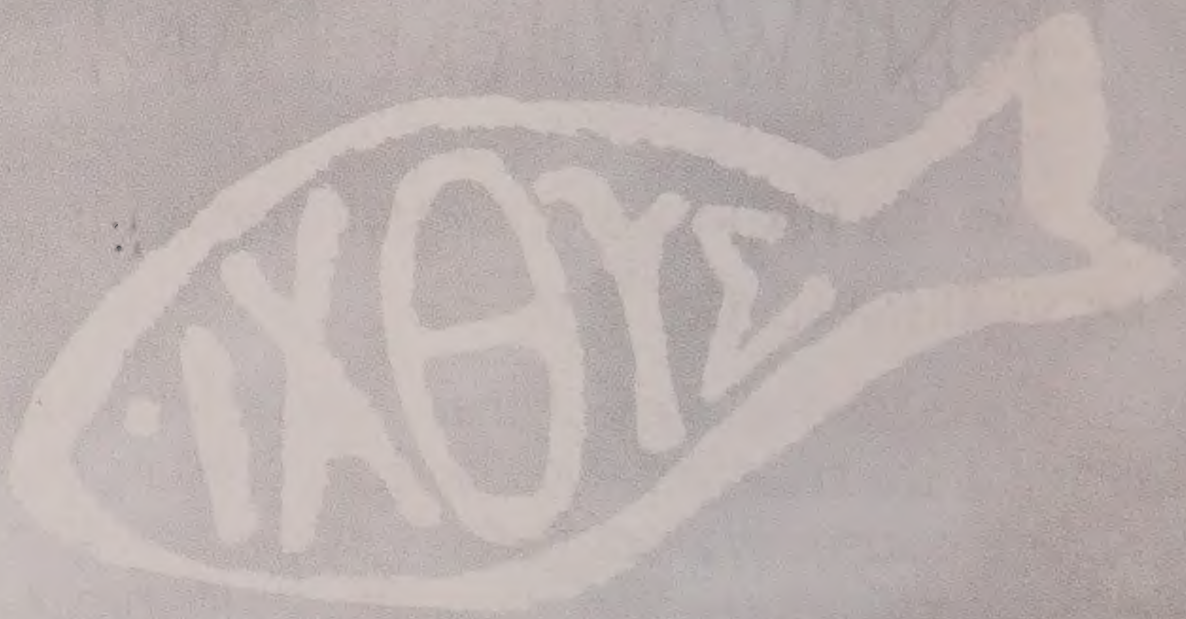
By now there is no question that you have led me to the foot of the cross, my God. Far from forsaking me, you have guided my steps to this very place. A little detail—gambling for a robe—becomes a sticking point. I know exactly where I am!

They couldn't wait for him to die; even as he continued to suffer, they claimed their grim inheritance and wished him quickly dead.

Have I done that as well? Have I wished my Savior out of the way, at least for this or that unsavory incident? Have I acted as though the gifts of God are simply mine to take, by right, and—like the prodigal son—snatched prematurely what I had been promised?

Before I look down, to see what I may get from all of this ... perhaps I should look up, and see the circumstances of my inheriting.

I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE I AM!



MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!
MY HEART YOUR GRACE ADDRESSING,
O FATHER, GOD OF LOVE,
GRANT ME YOUR HEAV'NLY BLESSING
TO DO WHEN DUTY CALLS
WHATEVER YOU ALLOT,
TO DO WHAT PLEASES YOU.
MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!

—MONDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK—

COME QUICKLY!

O LORD, DON'T STAY AWAY FROM ME! COME QUICKLY TO MY RESCUE!

Do I still act as though it were your fault, my God? That somehow you are the one who has chosen my predicament? "If you don't feel close to God," the bumper sticker says, "guess who moved!" It wasn't you, my God, was it? No, it was I.

One fact remains, however—the distance between us. Even though I am the one who caused it, I am not the one who can undo it. In my condition—sinner, suffering and doomed to die—I do not have that power.

Please notice, gracious God, that I no longer preface my plea with an accusatory "Why?"—No, all that I can offer at this point is ... "Please!"

COME QUICKLY TO MY RESCUE!

SAVE ME!

SAVE ME FROM THE SWORD; SAVE MY LIFE FROM THESE DOGS. RESCUE ME FROM THESE LIONS; I AM HELPLESS BEFORE THESE WILD BULLS.

I have come to the end of my rope, my God. Without reason or excuse, I simply lay my needs before you. They are obviously so much more than I can handle.

But I do so at the foot of the cross, with my Savior's sufferings in full view ... not only my view, I am sure, but yours as well. You know what your dear Son endured ... and you know why (that constant and persistent "Why?").

It is precisely because I have come to the end of my rope, my God. Without reason or excuse, I simply lay my needs before you. They are obviously so much more than I can handle. Jesus Christ is my only hope. It is in his dear name I pray.

SAVE ME!

—WEDNESDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK—

IN THE CROSS I GLORY

I WILL TELL MY PEOPLE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE; I WILL PRAISE YOU IN THEIR ASSEMBLY.

When Jesus prayed this prayer, my God, crying out from the cross—did he get to this part as well? Was he ready for the outcome, even then? Was he sure that he would have another chance to gather with the people of God and proclaim your praises?

Or was this his opportunity, this crucifixion, this ultimate obedience to your will—was this, for now at least, his place to show forth your praise?

He did it gloriously! In all the centuries that have followed, the faithful have looked back precisely to the cross to learn what you have done for us, my God. And we have learned our lesson well. "In the cross of Christ I glory," we sing—and praises continue from our own lips.

May they continue from our lives and attitudes as well ... especially when (as was the case with Christ) the pulpit is pain, the focus is faith. Even then, let me pray my Savior's prayer, and live it:

I WILL TELL MY PEOPLE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE!

HOW MANY WAYS?

"PRAISE HIM, YOU SERVANTS OF THE LORD! HONOR HIM, YOU DESCENDANTS OF JACOB! WORSHIP HIM, YOU PEOPLE OF ISRAEL!"

"Praise! ... Honor! ... Worship!" Like the psalmist's earlier words describing suffering, these concepts too pile up almost faster than one can utter them, tumbling over one another as if each is rushing to be first in line, more exalted than the rest. "Praise! ... Honor! ... Worship!" How many ways can we find to say it?

"Servants of the Lord ... descendants of Jacob ... people of Israel!" How many ways can we find to describe ourselves as those who have been singularly chosen and blessed by you, Lord God? "Praise! ... Honor! ... Worship!" How many ways can we find to say it?

How many ways can we find to do it?

HOW MANY WAYS?

—FRIDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK—

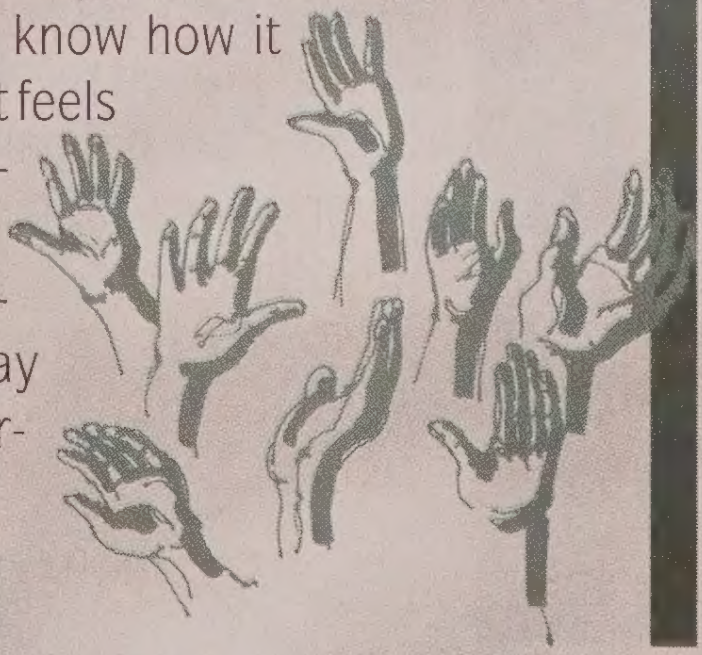
JOIN IN SERVICE

HE DOES NOT NEGLECT THE HELPLESS OR IGNORE THE SUFFERING; HE DOES NOT TURN AWAY FROM THEM.

Is this a way that I can praise and honor and worship you, my God? Is this how I show myself to be a servant of the Lord, a member of the chosen people of my God?

"I was hungry, and you fed me," Jesus said. "Thirsty, and you gave me drink. Naked, and you clothed me. Sick and in prison, and you visited me."

Having prayed my Savior's prayer this far, I should truly understand suffering and need. I have experienced them myself. I know how it feels. I also know how it feels to be neglected and ignored.



What honor you bestow on me, that I may join my Savior in service to God!

SHOW ME THE WAY!

—SATURDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK—

YOU ANSWERED!

HE ANSWERS WHEN THEY CRY FOR HELP.

I was hungry, and you fed me, gracious God—fed me with the bread of life. I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink of the waters of salvation. I was naked, and you clothed me with the robe of Christ's own righteousness. When sin held me sick and in prison, you visited me and set me free.

When I cried for help, you answered, my God! You did not turn away from me.

Even before I cried for help, or even knew I needed help, you answered, my God! Your Son had prayed this very prayer—and lived it, and died it finally—in order that my prayers might be heard. You did not turn away from me.

Help me to remember that wondrous lesson ... and to share it wherever there is need.

YOU ANSWERED, MY GOD!

MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!
LORD, I AM YOURS FOREVER.
THE TRUE FAITH GRANT TO ME;
GRANT THAT I LEAVE YOU NEVER.
GRANT ME A BLESSED END
WHEN MY GOOD FIGHT IS FOUGHT;
HELP ME IN LIFE AND DEATH.
MY GOD, FORSAKE ME NOT!

—MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK—

FELLOWSHIP

IN THE FULL ASSEMBLY I WILL PRAISE YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE; IN THE PRESENCE OF THOSE WHO WORSHIP YOU I WILL OFFER THE SACRIFICES I PROMISED.

The cries of the Palm Sunday crowds still echo in my ears, my God. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Because the life I seek to lead as your servant can so often be a lonely one, there are times when it's really good to be part of a crowd. I welcome the company of my fellow pilgrims, and rejoice in their fellowship.

Being together makes worship easier. It makes sacrifice easier, as well—and suffering too, when that is my lot. My God, thank you for the communion of saints.

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD!

—TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK—

OTHERS IN NEED

THE POOR WILL EAT AND BE SATISFIED; THOSE WHO COME TO THE LORD WILL PRAISE HIM. MAY THEY LIVE IN HOPE!

My God, do not let my private problems so narrow my vision that I fail to see—and to respond to—all those others with whom you surround me.

Not only happy crowds of praising people—they are a joy to be with, of course, and I appreciate them greatly ...

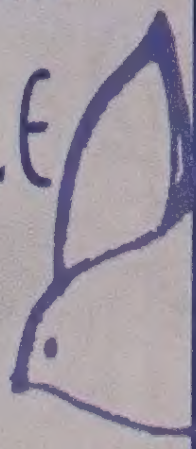
But also those sad and downcast crowds too easy to resent or ignore—the needy.

My God, you care for them, I know, just as you care for me. Can it be you have given them to me as my responsibility? Because I know how it feels? Can it be you have given me to them, as part of your answer to their fervent prayer?

MAY THEY LIVE IN HOPE!

—WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK—

WITH A SINGLE HEART



ALL NATIONS WILL REMEMBER THE LORD. FROM EVERY PART OF THE WORLD THEY WILL TURN TO HIM; ALL RACES WILL WORSHIP HIM.

"Do this for the remembrance of me," the Savior said as he first shared the bread and cup. And so we do. Together we remember.

Together we remember, for this is Communion, a sharing of your Son's gift of himself, my God—a sharing of your love as well, and the uniting action of your Holy Spirit.

From every part of the world we turn to you, worshiping in many languages yet with a single heart. The night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ prayed that we might all be one.

MY GOD, MAKE IT SO!

—HOLY THURSDAY—

EAT ... DRINK ... WAIT

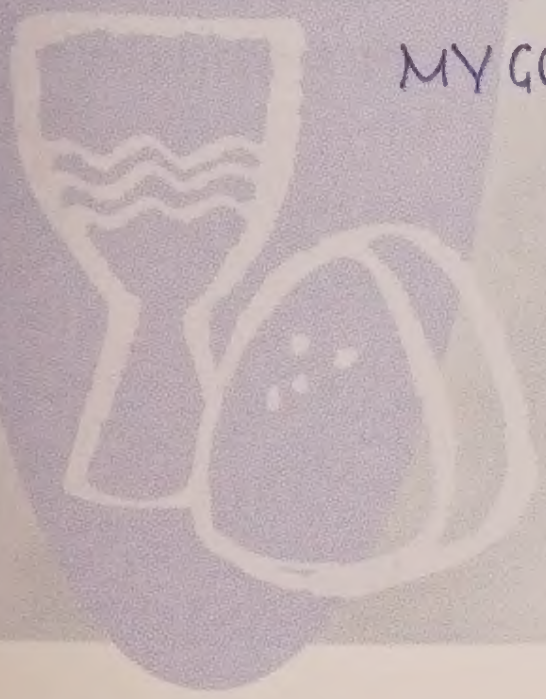
THE LORD IS KING, AND HE RULES THE NATIONS.

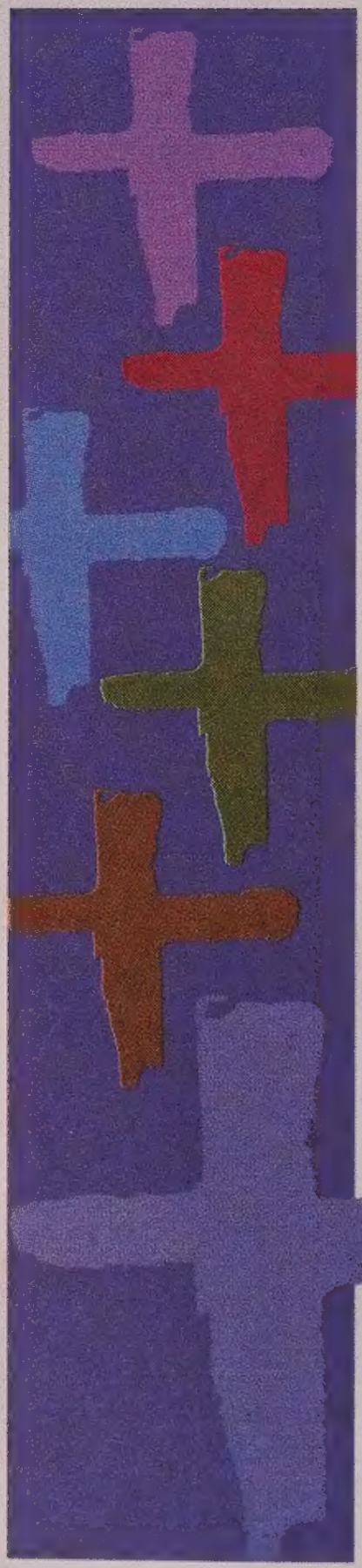
On this dark night so long ago, my God, you showed your sovereignty. Even mighty Pharaoh felt the weight of your decisive will, the most fearsome punishment of all—the death of the firstborn!

Yet in the midst of all that swirling might, your people—safe, secure within their houses marked by the blood of sacrificial lambs—gave thanks to you. They ate and drank as you had told them to ... and waited for the next thing you would do.

And so, on this most sacred day, I also eat and drink at your command ... and wait.

MY GOD, RULE!





—GOOD FRIDAY—

NOT ALONE

TO HIM, INDEED, SHALL ALL WHO SLEEP IN THE EARTH BOW DOWN; BEFORE HIM SHALL BOW ALL WHO GO DOWN TO THE DUST.

This is a day of death, the most significant death the world has ever known. This day, my God, your own dear Son—by whom all things were made—bowed down his head ... and joined us in the dust. For we are dust, and unto dust we shall return.

BUT NOT ALONE!

—HOLY SATURDAY—

THE FINAL WORD

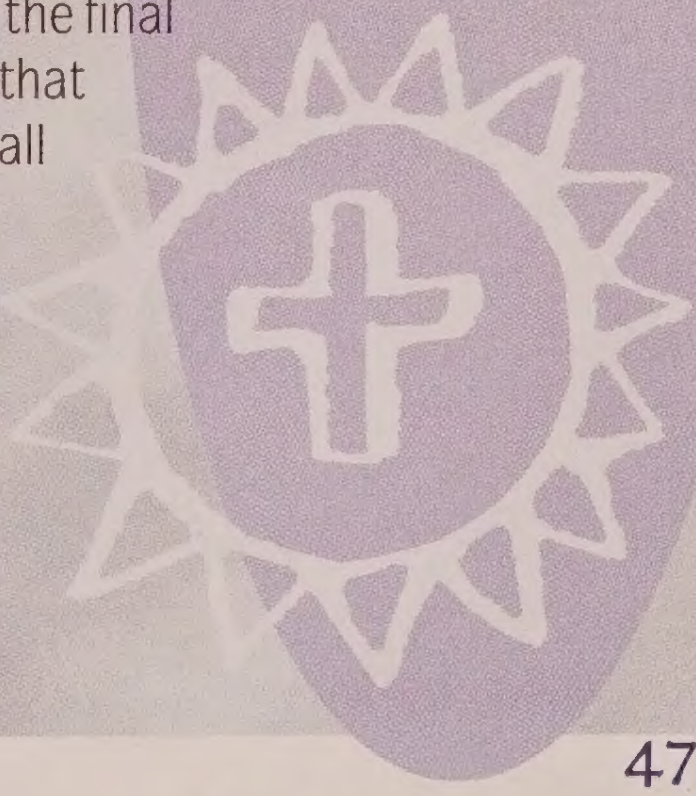
FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL SERVE HIM; THEY WILL SPEAK OF THE LORD TO THE COMING GENERATIONS.

This should be the end, my God. Death always signifies the end. What might have been can no longer be. The future is short-circuited. And hope is done.

Thus it should be, my God. But it is not! The future, like the past, is in your mighty, saving hands. The story, therefore, is not fully told, nor finally. There is yet more to say!

Even when the darkness seems as dank as death, my God, you yet will have the final word ... the final word that was, when you began all things, the first word:

"LET THERE BE LIGHT!"



—EASTER SUNDAY—

THE VICTORY

PEOPLE NOT YET BORN WILL BE TOLD: "THE LORD SAVED HIS PEOPLE!"

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! —1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 57

"My God, Why?"—A Book Of Daily Prayers For Lent Based On Psalm 22 was written by Arden W. Mead with art by Sally Beck. Cover photo by Roger Smith/Vision Impact Photography. © Copyright 1997 by Creative Communications for the Parish, 10300 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63127. Phone: 1-800-325-9414. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. **LG-8**

O Lord, I'm Listening!

A book of daily Lenten prayers for children

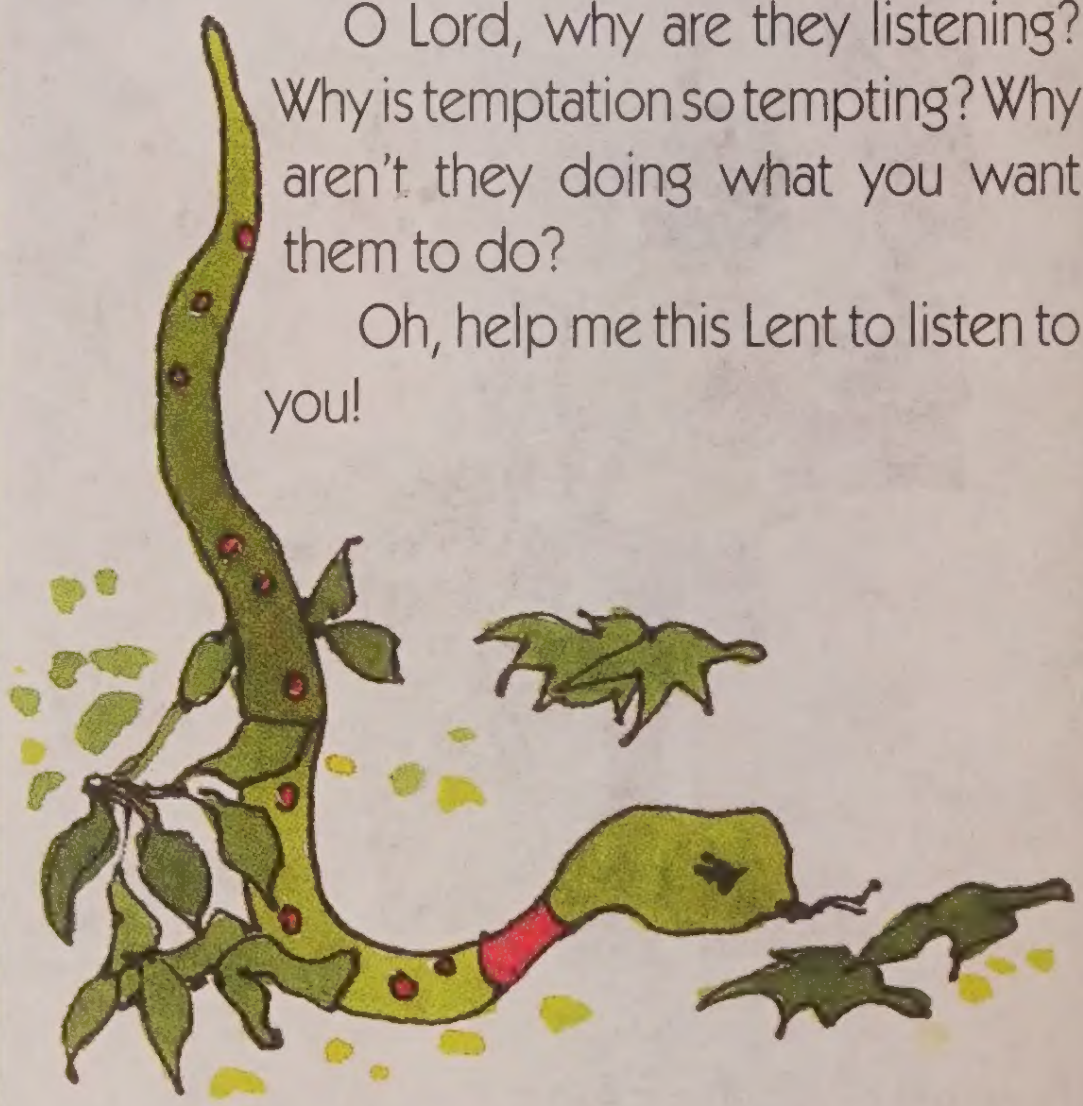
by Arden W. Mead

Snake

Is that a snake I hear up in that tree? What is it telling you, Eve? Oh, don't listen to that. God told you not to do that. Oh, Eve, don't listen! Adam, tell her, "No!" Don't do it! Don't let her do it! Don't listen to that serpent, or we will all be in trouble!

O Lord, why are they listening? Why is temptation so tempting? Why aren't they doing what you want them to do?

Oh, help me this Lent to listen to you!



"Adam?"

Is that the Lord God's voice I hear? Is that God walking in the garden and looking for his children? "Adam, where are you?" God says. "What have you done?"

Don't Adam and Eve hear the Lord God calling them? Why are they hiding? Why have they made those silly clothes out of leaves to cover themselves? Are they embarrassed?

They should be, for they have disobeyed the Lord. They didn't want to listen to God before, and now they don't want to again.

O Eve and Adam, what have you done?

Thursday ..... Read Genesis 3:7-13

Friday ..... Read Genesis 3:19-24

Weeping & Running

Do I hear some people weeping? Do I hear them weeping as they are running away? Is it Adam and Eve?

I guess they have reason to be weeping. They have just lost paradise. Because they didn't listen to God, they have to leave. It's a terrible punishment, but they deserve it. No wonder they are weeping.

I wonder what paradise would have been like, O Lord. Will I ever have a chance to find out? Or did Adam and Eve ruin everything forever?

A Baby's Cry

Saturday ..... Galatians 4:4-5

Is that a baby crying? Is it Adam and Eve's baby? Does that mean God has given the human race another chance?

Or is it Mary's baby, Jesus? That baby *really* means that God has given the human race another chance.

Some people are bothered when they hear a baby crying. But, Lord, I'm listening, for this is a happy sound. Adam and Eve's weeping was sad; to them it looked as though everything wonderful had ended. But this crying tells a happy story: that you are giving all of us another chance.

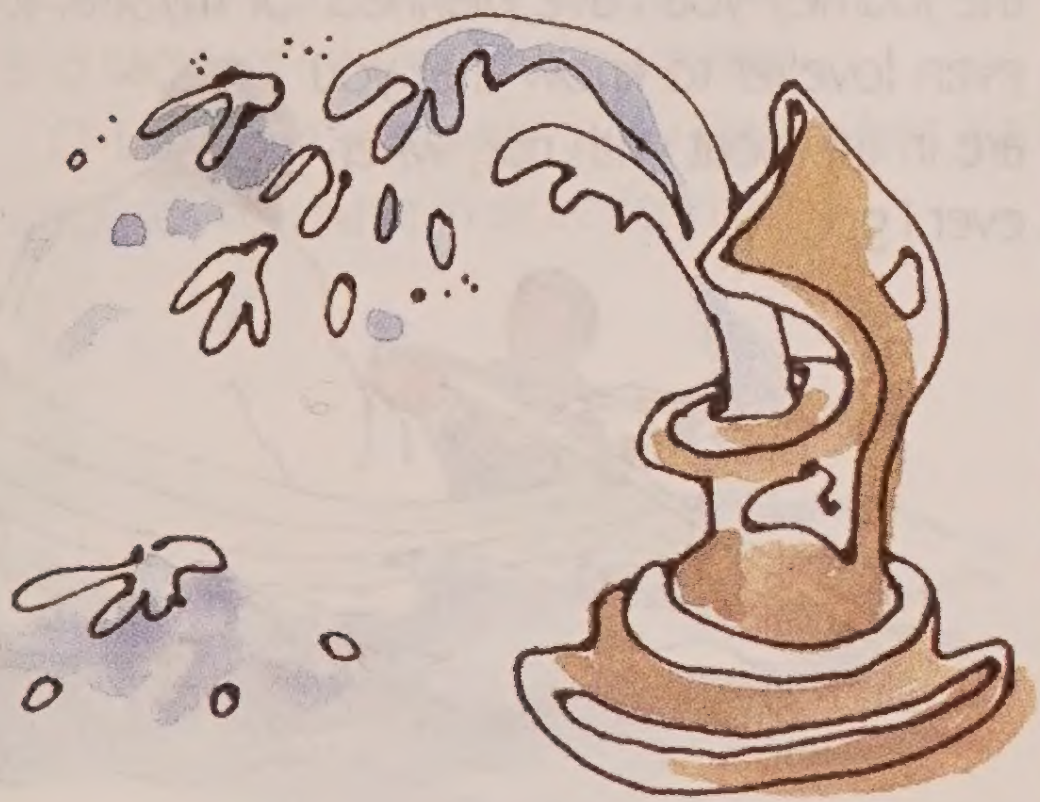
On Sundays in Lent we listen closely to the words of Jesus.

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Come, follow me"

Water Splashing

O God, I hear the water splashing. And I know you hear it too, for splashing water is one of the wonderful ways you let me know that you have given the whole world another chance. In the waters of baptism you make that promise personal, for me!

And now I hear those same baptismal waters splashing over Jesus Christ. That means my Lord is with me—right here, right now—sharing everything I experience, from the very beginning.



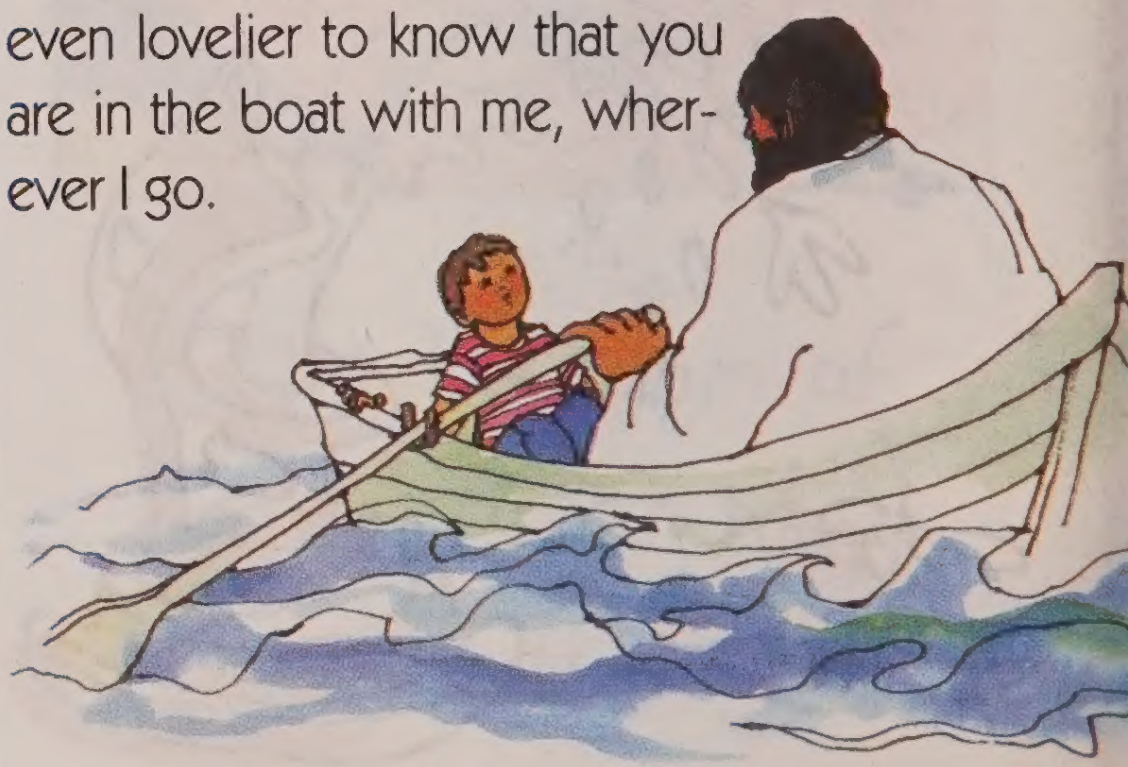
Monday of the First Week ..... Read Matthew 3:13-17

Sails Flapping

What a lovely day for fishing! The water is bright and shining, and the breeze is just right. I can almost hear the sails flapping as these fishermen bring their boats to shore.

And you are waiting for them there, Lord Jesus, waiting to call them by name and to invite them to follow you.

Just the way you used my baptism to invite me to be your faithful follower. I'm listening, Lord. It's a lovely day to be invited to be part of the journey you have planned for my life. It's even lovelier to know that you are in the boat with me, wherever I go.



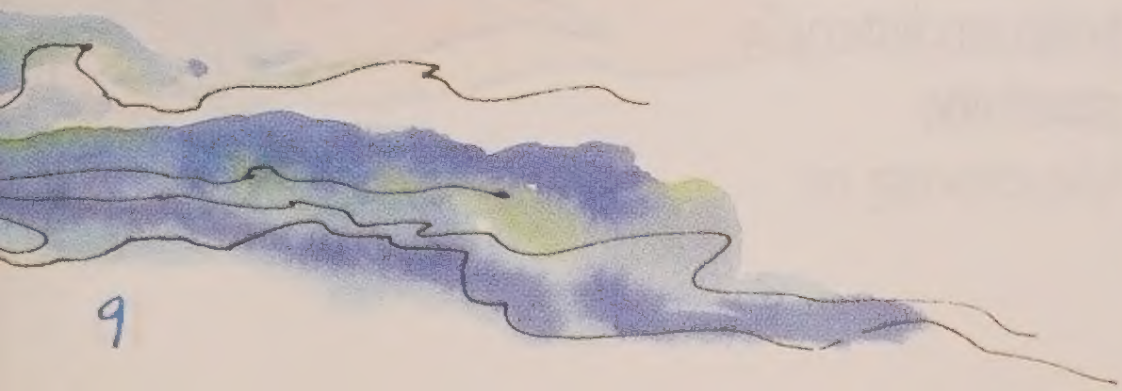
Wine Pouring

Wednesday of the First Week ..... Read John 2:1-11

Is that wine that they are pouring from those six stone jars? I thought there was only water in those jars—I know there was only water in those jars. But listen; the master of the feast is saying, "You have kept the best wine until now." It's wine!

And you put it there, didn't you, Lord Jesus? You put it there to let us know that you really are the Lord, and that you really do have ways of changing things—of taking bad situations and making good come out of them, of turning fear and sadness into joy and gladness.

O Lord, I'm listening ... to hear what glad surprises you have in store for me.



Roof Tiles Breaking

Look up—toward the ceiling! Is that where that strange noise is coming from? It sounds as though someone is trying to tear the roof apart.

That's exactly what is happening. Look! The hole is getting bigger. There are people up there on the roof ... and now they are lowering something down through that hole. It looks like a stretcher, or a cot. It is! And there's a man on it, a paralyzed man who can't walk.

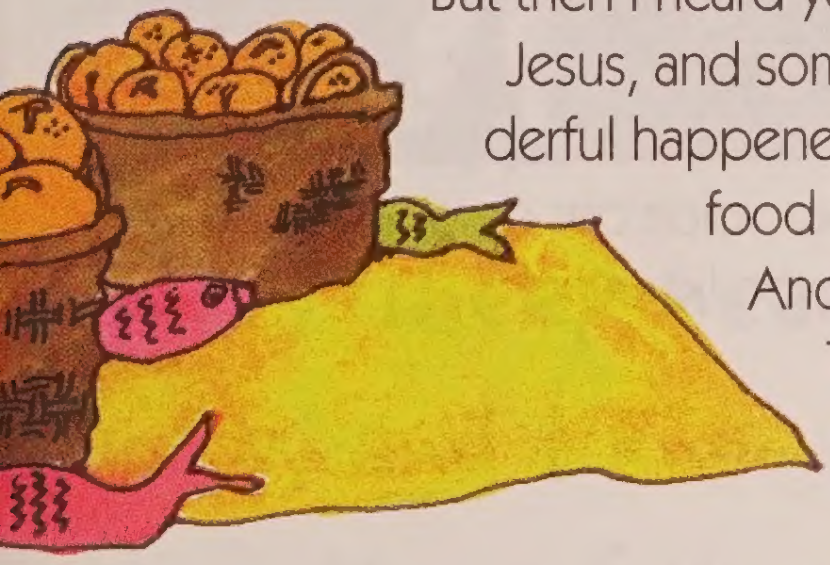
O Lord, I'm listening ... to hear how much you love that man, and just how you are going to help him. Did I hear you say, "Your sins are forgiven"? That is more than I expected to hear. I had better keep on listening carefully.

Eating, Eating, Eating

Friday of the First Week ..... Read Matthew 14:13-21

I don't know if I have ever been with so many people all eating at the same time. There must be *thousands* at this picnic! And they all have something to eat. More than something, they all have enough. There are even leftovers, baskets and baskets of them.

But didn't I just hear someone say that all the food they had for all these people was just five loaves of bread and two small fish?



But then I heard you pray, Lord Jesus, and something wonderful happened. There was food for everyone! And there still is. Thank you for providing so much, so generously!

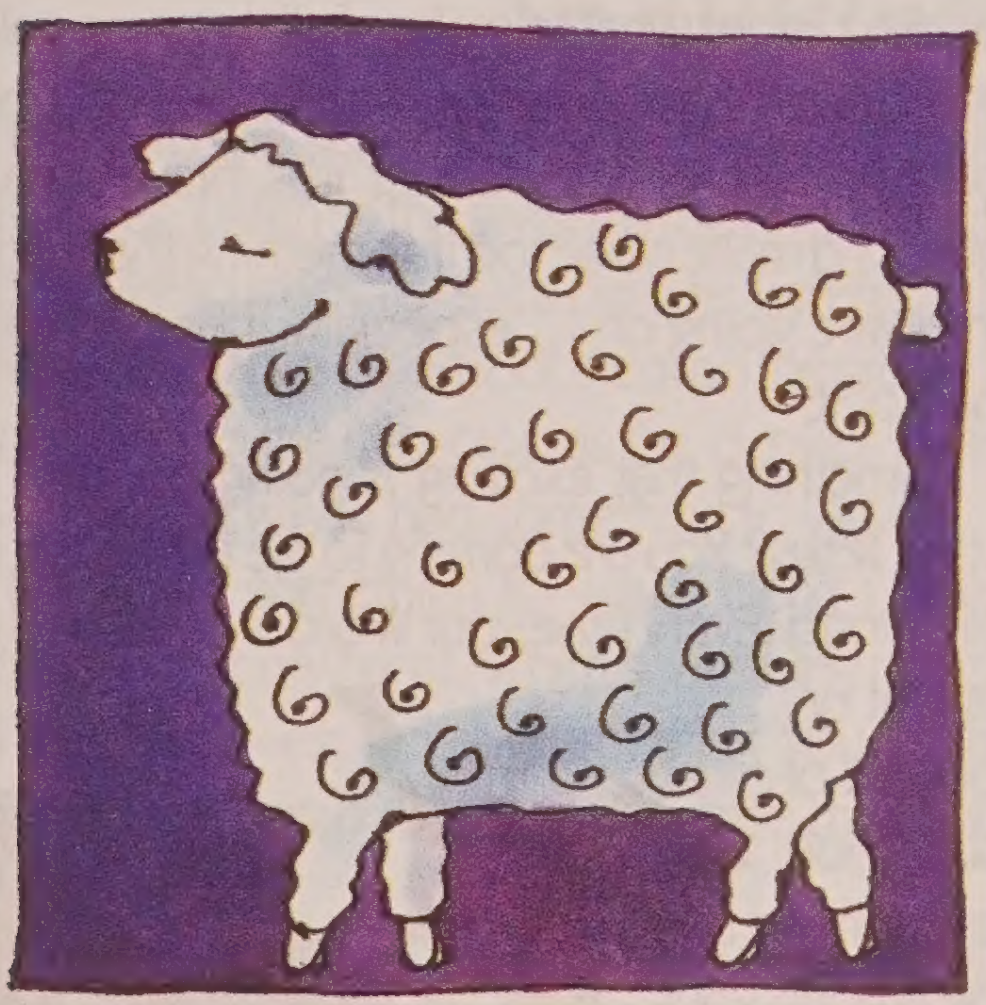
"Lazarus, Come Forth!"

I hear weeping again, like when Adam and Eve had to leave the garden. This weeping is taking place is a kind of garden too, only this garden is a cemetery. This is a place where people come to weep. It's hard to say good-bye. Even when we know your promise of everlasting life, it's still hard to say good-bye.

But now what do I hear? It's almost like "hello"! It is "hello"—it's two sisters hugging their dear brother who was truly dead and buried, but who is now alive again. And it was your voice, Lord Jesus, that made it happen.

Wow! If your voice can do *that*, I'm certainly going to keep on listening!

On Sundays in Lent we listen closely to the words of Jesus.



"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

Donkey Braying

Listen to that donkey braying! It probably doesn't know what to make of all these people. It probably has never been the head of a big parade before. No wonder it is braying so. I guess I'd make noise too if something that exciting were going on ... especially if I could be a part of it.

Something that exciting *is* going on, isn't it, Lord Jesus? You are coming to be the Savior of the world. Every time your Word is preached or taught or prayed or sung, you are coming to be among your people.

And I am invited to be a part of it!

Palm Branches Snapping

Listen to the snap as people break off palm branches. Listen to the swish as they wave them about like so many flags at a parade. Listen to the swoosh as they put some of them on the ground. And listen to the clip-clop as the donkey walks over them. I wish I had something to wave.

I do have something to wave, don't I, Lord Jesus? I have my hand. When something needs to be done—especially something you might approve of, Jesus Christ—I can raise my hand and volunteer.

Is it too corny to say that I can show my palm?

Tuesday of the Second Week ..... Read Matthew 21:8-11

Children Singing

Listen to the children singing!

Why did I say that, Lord Jesus? Because I know you *do* ... listen ... when children sing, especially when your children sing songs of praise and thanks to you.

There was a time when people asked you to tell your friends to stop singing. But you said that couldn't happen—that if your people stopped singing, the stones would have to shout.

Are there times when I want the singing to stop? Times, anyway, when I am not as excited about joining in as I ought to be? Then help me listen, Lord, the way you listen. Help me to understand how good it sounds when children sing for you.

Then you won't need stones if I'm around to sing!

Coins Falling

Listen! Someone is counting out coins. Big coins, coins that are probably worth a lot of money. From the way they ring, they sound like silver coins to me. Maybe even real silver, solid silver.

Listen! Are they arguing about how many coins there should be? What can they be buying that is worth so many coins? And so much arguing?

"How much will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?" Oh oh, is that Judas? Is it *Jesus* that they are bargaining about? "Twenty-seven. Twenty-eight. Twenty-nine. Thirty. Thirty piece of silver."

Oh, come on! Jesus is worth more than that! Isn't he?

Thursday of the Second Week ..... Read Luke 22:1-6

Cups Being Filled

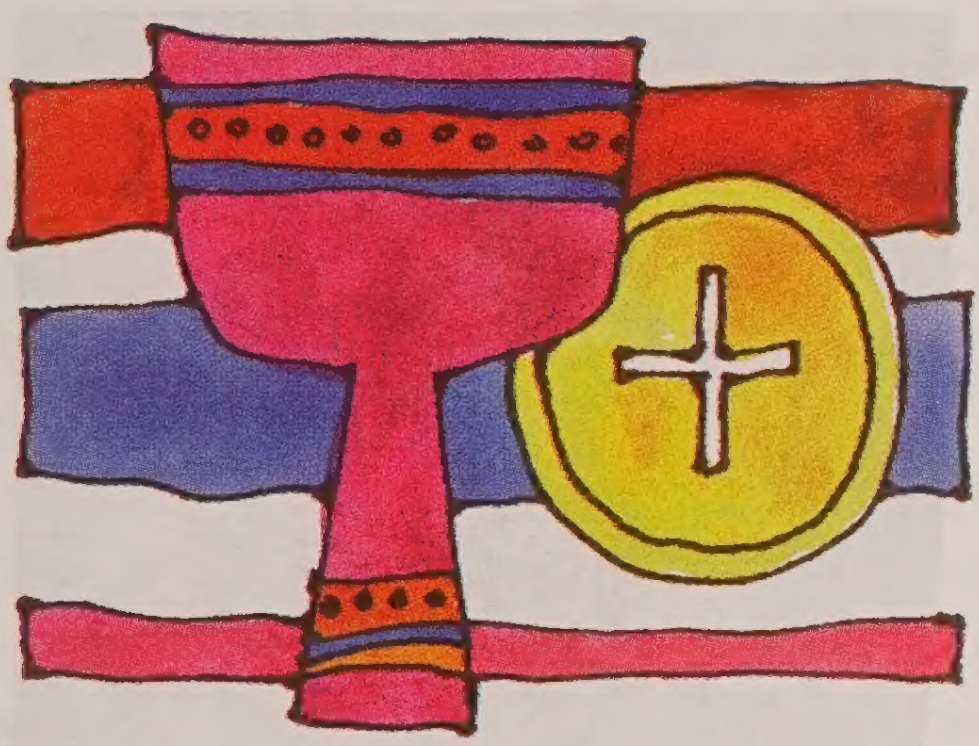
I think the meal is about to begin. The food has been prepared and the guests have gathered. And now they are about to drink the first toast. I can hear the wine being poured.

Lord Jesus, do I always appreciate all the things that you provide for me? Do I even take the time, each meal, to give you thanks and ask your blessing in a table prayer?

What if you would stop providing so generously? What if you would say, "Well, you didn't thank me yesterday, so today the cupboard is bare"?

But you don't stop ... even when I don't say thank you. Please make me truly thankful. And help me to say so ... so that you have something to listen to, too.

"This Is My Body"



Have I heard the words so often in church that maybe I have forgotten to listen to them? Do I really appreciate the great gift you are speaking about, Lord Jesus Christ?

You gave yourself on the cross for our forgiveness ... and you keep on giving yourself, so that we may never forget. "This is my body," you say—and you are just that close to us, that real.

Help me to pay attention, and to appreciate. Help me to listen ... and believe.

Saturday of the Second Week ... Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

On Sundays in Lent we listen closely to the words of Jesus.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you."

Praying in the Garden

Monday of the Third Week ..... Read Luke 22:39-43

I hear you praying in the garden, Jesus Christ. And maybe I begin to understand just what you are going through. I don't think that I have ever prayed that hard.

Suffering and dying for the sins of the world is going to be hard, isn't it? It's going to hurt a lot, more than I will ever understand. It's going to be more frightening than anything that has ever scared me. I can tell how bad it is by how hard you are praying.

You must love me very much!

Snoring

Snoring? Do I hear people snoring? Your disciples? Right here in the garden, where you have asked them to stay awake and pray with you? How could they just fall asleep like that? Don't they care? Don't they understand what you are doing for them?

Do I? Do I really care? Do I understand? Or do I get tired sometimes—or bored—right there in church, where you are trying to let me know exactly how much you care, how much you have done for me?

I'm glad you kept on praying, Lord, even without your disciples. And I'm glad you keep on loving me, even when I don't appreciate it.

Can you help me to stay awake? Can you make me understand?

An Angry Mob

Why are they mad at you, Jesus Christ? Why are they coming out to the garden with spears and clubs, and rope to tie you up? Is it something you did that was wrong? Or something that you should have done but failed to do?

I don't think so. I know you better than that.

And so should they. You taught so many of them, just as you have shared God's Word with me. You fed them, just as I have been fed. You cared for them when they were sick, the way you care for me.

O Jesus, I hope that *I* am never part of the crowd that is angry with you.

Crackling Fire

When nights are chilly and I am too, a crackling fire can be very welcome. Peter seems to think so. Look, he is warming his hands here in the high priest's courtyard, happy that someone made this crackling fire.

But now listen! People are asking Peter whether he is a friend of Jesus ... and Peter is denying it. He's shouting. He's even using bad language. I don't think I want to hear that.

But there are times when I have probably done the same thing. I'm sorry, Lord.

Ripping Robe

Now, that's a strange sound. Why would anyone tear his clothes like that? Especially a high priest, who has such elegant robes—why is he tearing them? He must be very angry.

Did I hear what I thought I heard? Is the high priest upset because you told the truth, Jesus? He asked if you are really the Son of God, and you said yes. And now he's angry.

I guess people get upset sometimes when they hear the truth. And I suppose that means that sometimes people can be tempted to lie, so that other folks won't get angry.

But that's not right. You told the truth, and so should I.

The high priest should have known better.

Rooster

Yes, I hear it, Lord. I hear the rooster crowing. And I know what it means.

Peter hears it too, doesn't he? And he knows what it means, as well. It means that you were right, Jesus Christ, when you foretold that Peter would deny you. You said it would happen this very night, before the rooster is done crowing.

I hear something else. I hear Peter weeping. Now he knows how wrong he was to say that he was not your friend, to say he never heard of you. He's sorry now.

How long will it take before Peter hears that you still love him? That you are willing to die on the cross to take even that sin away? That is something I need to hear too.

O Lord, I'm listening!

On Sundays in Lent we listen closely to the words of Jesus.

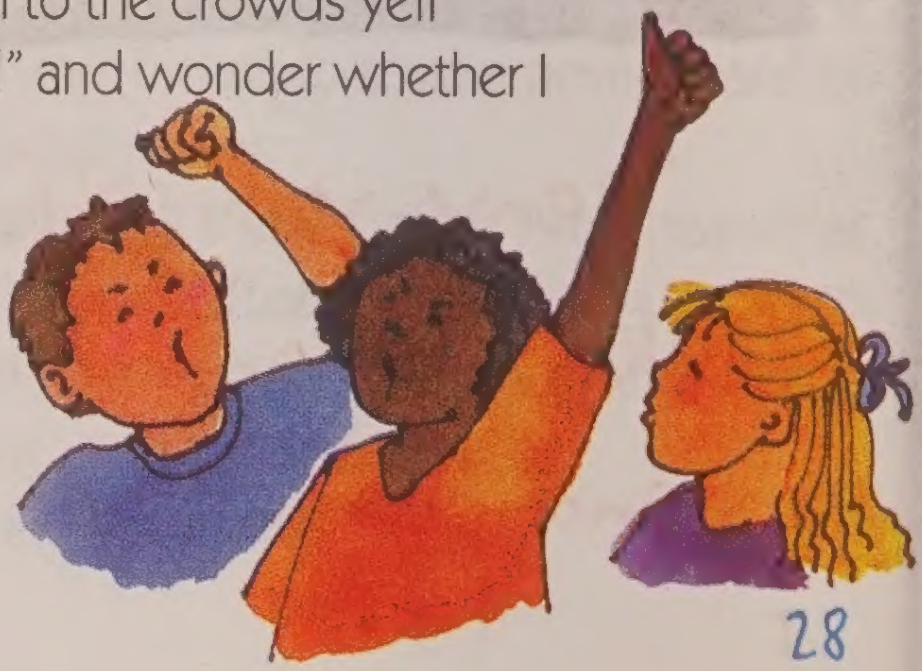
"Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me."

"Crucify!"

They wanted you to die, Lord Jesus Christ. They really wanted you to die. No matter how many times Pontius Pilate, the judge, told them you were innocent, they still wanted you to die. They just kept yelling and yelling, and there were so many of them, that finally Pilate just gave in and let them have their way.

That can happen sometimes, I know, when people get together in crowds. It can even happen to me when enough of my friends (or people who pretend to be my friends) get together and start making noises about what they want—whether it's right or not.

I listen to the crowds yell "Crucify!" and wonder whether I would have yelled that too.



Washing Hands

Tuesday of the Fourth Week ..... Read Matthew 27:22-24

I hear water splashing again. Only this time it's not at somebody's baptism, and it's not water being turned into wine. Those were times when people were on Jesus' side, and glad to have him in their lives.

No, this time I hear Pontius Pilate washing his hands. He says this means he has nothing to do with Jesus' death. But that's not true. He can't evade the truth just by washing his hands!

And neither can I. Lord Jesus, do I sometimes pretend something isn't my fault when it really is? When I do, I'm glad you don't wash your hands of me!

Whip

Oh, it sounds so harsh! The whip ... beating you, Jesus ... over ... and over ... and over again. Every blow of the whip must hurt so terribly! Why are they doing it? Why don't they stop?

Why don't you stop them, Jesus Christ? Why don't you just exercise your heavenly power and make them stop? Why don't you give them a whipping?

Because then you would probably have to give me one too, wouldn't you?

It isn't easy, Lord, but I am listening ... to hear how much you suffered in my place, what you endured for me.

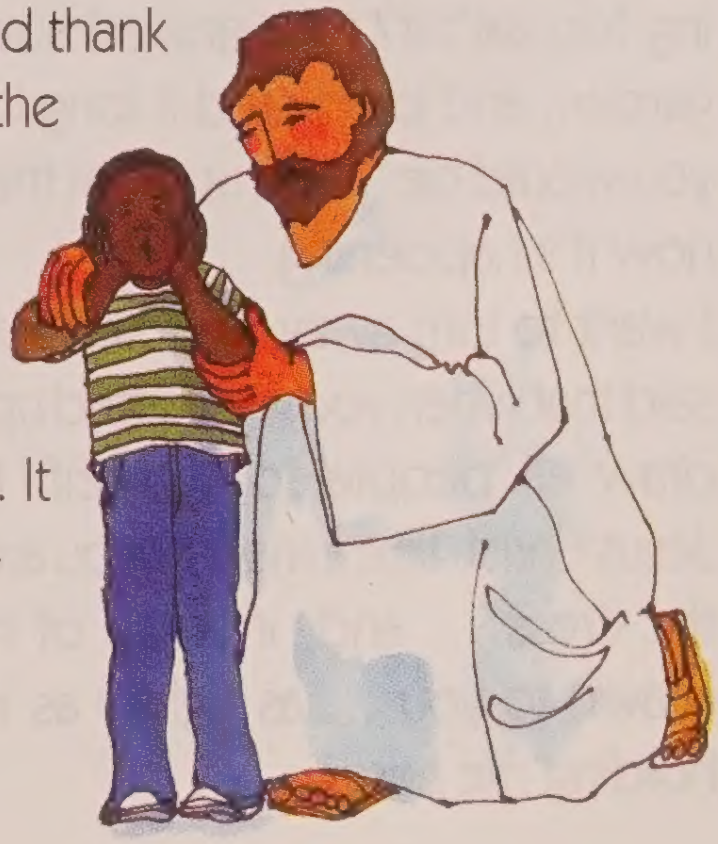
Weeping Women

Thursday of the Fourth Week ..... Read Luke 23:26-31

The women are weeping as you carry your cross, Lord Jesus. They are weeping for you.

People do that sometimes, and I think it is kind when they do. They cry and feel bad even when the trouble is not their own but someone else's. They feel sorry for the other person. They feel sorry *with* the other person. Sometimes they hug ... sometimes they are so hurt they just sort of stand and stare ... but most often, they cry.

Thank you for people who care that much, Lord Jesus. And thank you for taking the time to stop and listen to the women weeping, and to talk to them. It makes a difference that you care.



Hammer Blows

This is a sound I didn't want to hear. They are nailing you to the cross, my dear Lord. The sound of the hammer is loud ... and cruel. It almost feels as if it echoes in my ears ... and in my head ... and through my whole body. Every time I hear another hammer blow, I shudder ... and wince. This is a sound I didn't want to hear.

But this is the sound you have been waiting for, isn't it? You prayed about it in the garden, and predicted it long before—that you would be "lifted up from the earth." And now it's happening.

I want to turn away, O Lord. But I can't. You said that when you were lifted up, you would draw all people to yourself. It's working, Jesus Christ. Like a magnet you are hanging on the cross ... and, in spite of myself, I am drawn to you ... as tightly as if nails were holding me here.

Dice

They took away everything you had, didn't they, Jesus? You once had said that, unlike birds that have nests and animals that have dens, you didn't really even have a place to lay your head.

You did have the clothes on your back, though.

And now those are taken away. The soldiers gambled for your robe.

And so you gave up everything—everything you owned—in order to be my Savior. Is there anything I am willing to give up for you?

Saturday of the Fourth Week ..... Read John 19:23-24

On Sundays in Lent we listen closely to the words of Jesus.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

"With Me in Paradise"

Monday of the Fifth Week ..... Read Luke 23:34-43

In the beginning, Adam and Eve had to leave paradise, because they had sinned. I heard them weep as they left.

But now I hear another sound. It is your voice, Lord Jesus Christ, making a wonderful promise to a sinner: "Today you will be with me in paradise."

Can I believe my ears? Does that mean that everything has changed? Does it mean that when you prayed, "Father, forgive," the heavenly Father really heard that prayer? And that the heavenly Father still hears that prayer and still offers forgiveness?

It's all true because you obeyed, isn't it, Jesus? Because you didn't come down from the cross and think only about yourself. The way to paradise is open again, because you obeyed ... for Adam and Eve, and all of us.

"Mother and Son"

No matter how big you grow up to be, and how important you become, some things remain the same, don't they, Lord? Mary is still your mother. She still loves you the way she did when you were just a little boy. And you still love her, don't you? It helps to know that you do not forget the ones you love.

Your best friend stands by the cross too. And I hear you speaking to him, telling him to take care of your mother for you ... and telling her to care as much for your best friend as you do.

Some things remain the same. The family and friends you give to us, dear Lord, are precious gifts, and we should cherish them. You did!

"Why Forsaken?"

Wednesday of the Fifth Week.....Read Matthew 27:45-46

I hear you shouting, Jesus Christ. I hear you crying out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And suddenly I think I know the answer.

The heavenly Father forsook you on the cross because he is not willing to forsake me. God loves me so much that he gave you, his own dear Son, to die for me, so that I might be forgiven and welcomed into paradise as a member of your family, a child of God.

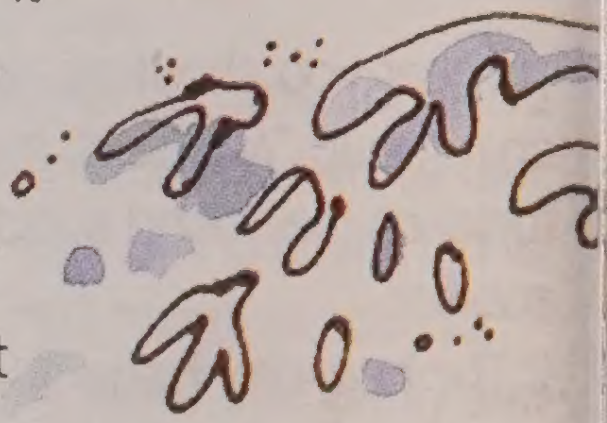
Lord Jesus, don't ever let me forsake you. Once is enough!

"I Thirst"

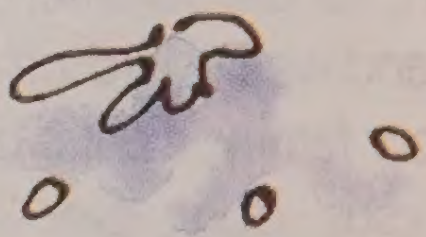
I have been thirsty too, Lord Jesus. And sometimes I have even said so out loud. But I am sure I have never been as thirsty as you are, crying from the cross.

I'm not sure I can really understand what it is to be nailed to a cross. I know I can't understand what it means to suffer for the sins of the whole world.

But I do know what it feels like to be thirsty, really thirsty. Compared with those other things, it may not be much. But it's something I can understand.



And maybe that will help me understand those other things.



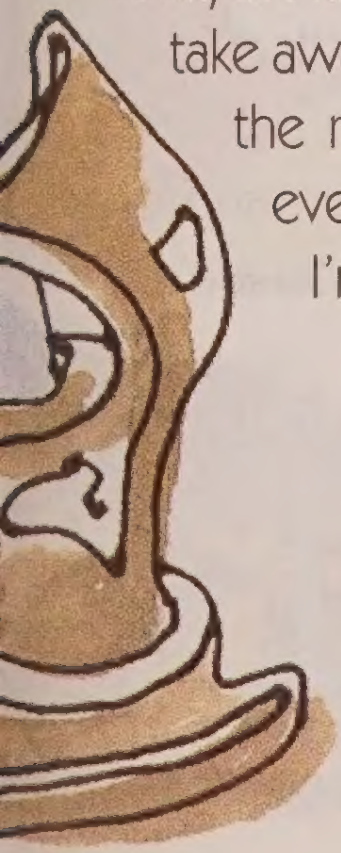
"It Is Finished!"

I know how good it feels when something is finished, Jesus Christ. Something like my homework, for example. Or some chore I was supposed to do.

There are other things it is good to have finished, too. Like an appointment with the doctor or the dentist. Or getting my hair cut. Or waiting in line. It's good to be finished, finally.

So maybe I can understand how you felt, dear Lord, at the end of all your terrible suffering to take away the sins of the world. That was the most difficult task anyone could ever do, and you did it perfectly.

I'm sure it felt good to be finished.



"Into Your Hands"

The last thing I hear you say from the cross sounds like a bedtime prayer, O Lord, like the kind of thing I pray (when I remember to pray) before I fall asleep at night.

Bedtime prayers make me feel comfortable. They make me feel safe and warm and loved. They let me know that, no matter how dark it gets overnight, I am never alone.

And now I hear you praying a kind of bedtime too, dear Lord, as you are about to "fall asleep" (that's what the Bible sometimes calls dying, isn't it?). Even here you can pray with confidence. Even now you can feel safe and warm and loved. Even with your very last breath you are sure that, no matter how dark it gets, you are never alone.

I'm glad you said this bedtime prayer, Lord Jesus. It makes me so much more confident when I say mine.

On Sundays in Lent we listen closely to the words of Jesus.

"Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Spear

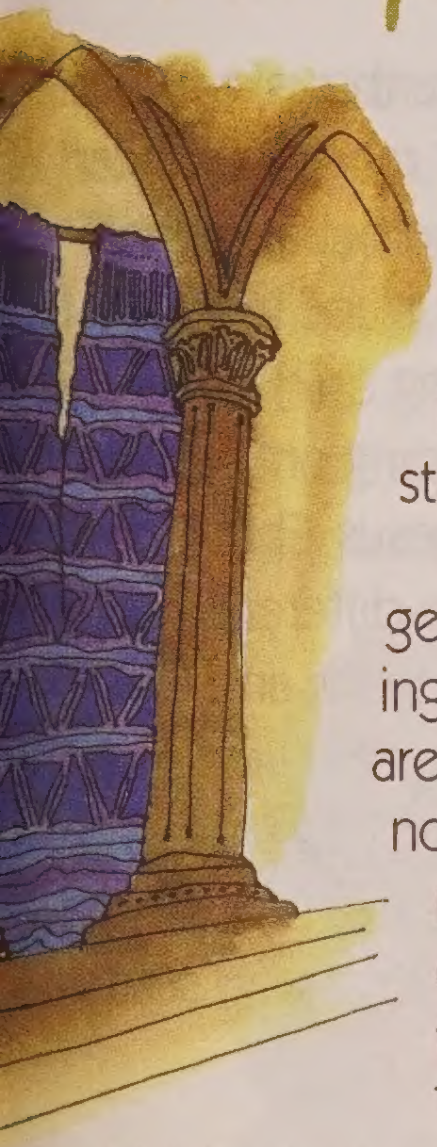
I hear the noise of soldiers working, making sure that everyone who was crucified this day is truly dead. I hear the sound of breaking legs, and it is terrible. But when they get to you, Lord Jesus Christ, one soldier uses a spear instead. I hear him grunt as he pushes it into your side. And I see blood and water coming out.

You don't hear any of that, do you? You are now beyond all these things that other people have to do. You are safe in the heavenly Father's keeping.

The spear lets me know that you really, truly died. That's important, because some day I will die too—not just pretend, but really, truly. And if I am going to be raised to life again from that real, true death, I need to know that you went that way ahead of me, to make my rising possible.

The spear points the way.

Temple Curtain Tearing



Listen to it rip! That curtain is huge! It's old and it's dusty and it's very heavy ... and now it is starting to rip.

Listen! The sound of tearing is getting louder. Look! The opening is getting larger. Listen! People are shouting and running around, not knowing what to do. This has never happened before! The curtain is tearing in two from top to bottom.

That means that whatever was hidden in the Temple's Holy Place isn't hidden anymore. It means that anyone can look right in. It means that God's people don't have to feel locked out of God's presence, ever.

O Jesus, somehow you have opened the way. I wish Adam and Eve could hear this. Maybe they can.

Earthquake

Don't ask me if I heard the earthquake. When earthquakes happen, you do more than hear. You feel! And you know that something significant is happening. [Is it out of place to say that something *earthshaking* is going on?]

Something earthshaking *is* going on. Because you died for all of us, Lord Jesus Christ, now everyone's death can take on a different meaning. Tombs are going to open again, and God's children will be given a whole new life.

It's beginning already, isn't it? Even as you close your eyes in death, O Jesus, I think I can hear the beginning of something new, something really earthshaking!

Centurion

When a police officer tells you something, I've been taught, you're supposed to pay attention. "That highway is dangerous; drive carefully." "Please form a line to the right." "Don't forget to lock your car." "Never accept gifts from strangers." "Look both ways before crossing the street."

Well, the centurion at the foot of the cross is a kind of police officer, and I heard what he has to say, "Truly this was God's Son!" Maybe I should pay attention.

Holy Thursday ..... Read Mark 15:39

A Sealed Stone

When everything else is done, I hear a great stone being rolled into place in front of your tomb, Lord Jesus Christ. It crunches and rumbles as it moves so slowly ... and the people moving it are grunting at the effort.

And now here come the soldiers to apply a seal to the stone. And then they're going to take their places and keep watch.

Why? So that no one can get in? Well, they are soldiers; they can probably handle that. But what they haven't prepared for is this: What if someone wanted to get *out*?

For all their careful preparations, I bet they never thought of that.

Silence...

Holy Saturday ..... Read Luke 23:55-56

It's almost like a surprise party, isn't it? It's like those tingly, giggly minutes when you are waiting for the guest of honor to arrive ... and everyone is trying too hard to be quiet ... but it isn't working very well, because—well, it's just too exciting.

How much longer can the silence last? How much longer can the secret be kept?

The real secret, I know, is that *we* are not the ones who are going to yell, "Surprise!" Oh no, Lord Jesus, lying dead the quiet day within the grave ... *you* are the one!

Oooh, I can hardly wait! Already, Lord, I'm listening.

Easter Sunday

On Sundays in Lent we listen closely to the words of Jesus.

"Fear not; it is I!"

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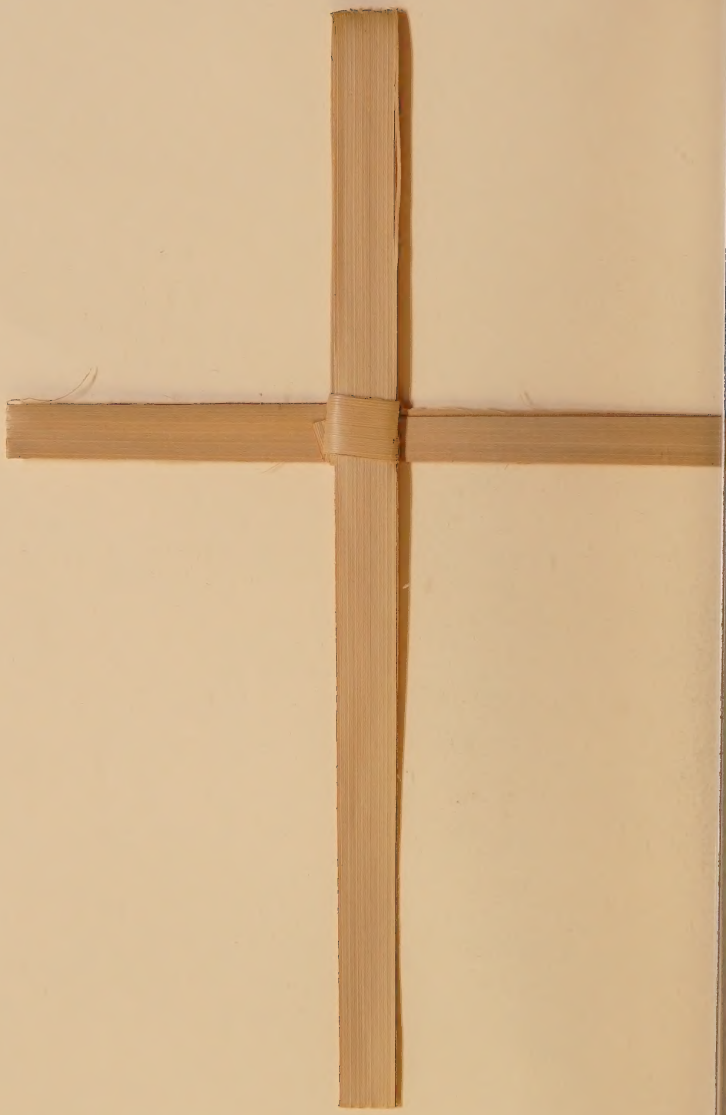
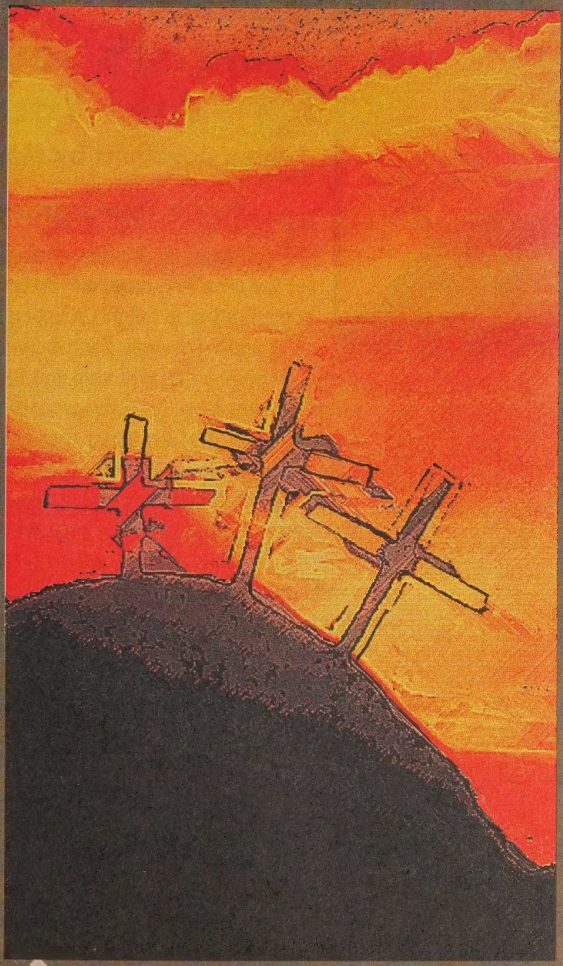


CHRIST'S JOURNEY & YOURS



LENTEN DEVOTIONS BY MARTIN E. MARTY

Christ's Journey And Yours

Lenten Devotions by Martin E. Marty

Your Journey

The spiritual life is often symbolized as a journey. For the next forty days, during Lent, you will be able in meditation to follow Christ on his journey to the cross and to triumph. Each day you will be reading a text of Scripture that will help you focus your thoughts on the theme. A two- or three-word theme is above each meditation; a brief summary thought follows. An alternate reading will help to set the stage. Think of the Bible as a record of the journey of God toward humans. People are always finding ways to recognize anything wrong with us and then we are not able to realize how God would rescue us. But God waits along the way, in judgment and in love. In Christ God makes possible our walking toward the glory he has prepared for us—but never by evading the cross.

If you have ever walked a pilgrimage you will remember that here and there along the way are benches for rest, shrines for worship. Sundays do not count in the 40 days reserved for Lent. On Sundays you will, no doubt, be at worship unless ill health or similar circumstances keep you from it. An appropriate hymn verse, one for each Sunday, serves as our "shrine," our rest, from the journey.

Just as each of us must die for ourself, so we must believe for ourself, and make the journey for ourself. That is why these meditations use the pronoun "I" throughout. If you read them silently and alone this "I" will still find you in the company of Christ. If you read them with a partner, in the family, or in a prayer circle, you may want to think "we" when you read "I" or even translate the singular to the plural.

I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
—John 14:6

Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 40:1-11
Mark 1:1-8

Christ's Journey ... As a "Way"

"Prepare the way of the Lord ... "

Today I am to take the first step on a forty-day journey in the path of the cross. This journey proceeds in the way of Jesus. I am to be in the company of those who must help carry the cross, but it is clear that Jesus has the weight of its heavy end, and that we only follow after.

In this first day, however, our company sets out ahead of him. We hear a voice from the past, the voice of a prophet calling: "Prepare the way of the Lord." John the Baptist did most of the preparing, but in my heart I can also take up the task. Without leaving my office, my farm, my sick room, I can join John in smoothing the paths by removing the distractions that keep me from seeing the goal of Christ's journey.

That journey will bring us victory over everything within us that stands in the way of the purposes of God.

Today I begin a forty-day march unafraid—for Jesus will walk ahead.

Thursday

Genesis 12:1-3
Mark 1:9

Christ's Journey ... To Baptismal Waters

"Jesus came ... and was baptized."

I once came from a home to a church and was baptized by a pastor. Jesus came from Nazareth to the Jordan and was baptized by John. Most of us were brought to the water of baptism as infants, in someone else's arms. Jesus came voluntarily to start his journey where we start ours, in the

presence of his Father who still meets us at these waters.

Apart from baptism I was far from that Father. The barriers in the path to him were impossible to cross. Jesus cleared the way. None of these barriers existed for him. He was already at the beginning in perfect harmony with his Father's will and way. But his steps are to lead wherever we must go, so he began where I must begin. My baptism meant the death of my old "self." His baptism and cross brought me a new "self."

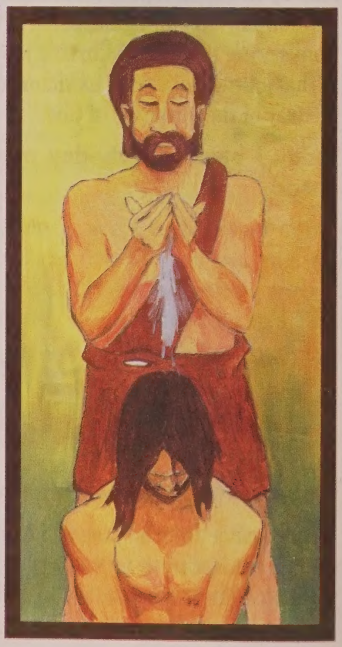
Today I recall my baptism and resolve to walk in new life.

Friday

Galatians 3:25-29
Mark 1:10-11

Christ's Journey ... From Baptismal Waters

" ... he came up out of the water."



"Have a good day!" says the checker at the supermarket, my friend at the office, my spouse or parents as I leave for the day. They say it casually and may mean little by it. But I *shall* have a good day, I am having a good day, even if it includes pain and trial. When doubt comes, I recall my baptism. God has put his seal on me and made me new.

When I was baptized, no one saw the skies open. No one heard a heavenly voice calling me God's beloved child. But because God was well-pleased with Jesus, he is also well-pleased with me, thanks to his grace. I am now free to walk in a bond with him.

Today I think of myself as God's adopted child, walking with Christ.

Christ's Journey ... To Temptation

"The Spirit ... drove him out into the wilderness."

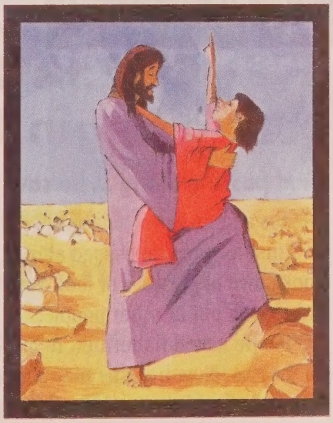
This is not the way things were supposed to turn out! By the fourth day of my journey I expected to be safe and secure. Yet Jesus leads into the wilderness, which is as dangerous a place as the modern city. Wild beasts surround him. Wild forces make their attack on those who follow him. He was "tempted by Satan," and so am I. The promise came that I need go nowhere but in his path. Did I know where that path would lead?

But if the wild beasts of temptation are still with me I know that just as "angels ministered to Jesus," so God surrounds me still with care and love. If I am in Jesus' wilderness, in his company, identified with his gift, the end of the day shall find me sharing his victory.

Today temptation will come, but it will not conquer.

The First Sunday in Lent

**I bind this day to me forever,
By power of the faith,
Christ's incarnation,
His baptism in
The Jordan River,
His cross of death
For my salvation,
His bursting from
The spiced tomb,
His riding up
The heavenly way,
His coming at
The day of doom,
I bind unto myself today.**



Monday

Isaiah 55:1-11
Mark 1:14-15

Christ's Journey ... To Galilee

"Jesus came ... preaching."

Monday: blue Monday, gray Monday, or sunny Monday, it makes no difference. I left the wilderness of temptation expecting great things, and here it is just another day. Now I am tempted not in the midst of wild beasts but of daily annoyances. I can lose my way in apathy.

I can, that is, *unless* I follow Jesus now to Galilee, his home base, where he announces good news—to me, now as he did to his neighbors then.

Monday: it is not likely I shall hear a sermon today. But in this quiet meditation and whenever I am thoughtful during the day or evening hours, his voice still speaks two words. *Repent!* Everything turns and changes. *Believe!* I know the good news of the Kingdom of God again.

Today in a moment of silence I will hear Jesus give direction for the next steps.

Tuesday

Micah 6:6-8
Mark 1:16-20

Christ's Journey ... To Begin The Mission

"And passing along ... he saw Simon and Andrew."

Jesus seems to be constantly in motion. Today he is "passing along" my way, just as once he passed along the Sea of Galilee. Today he finds me as I look down at my work or look away in my play. He calls me to look up to him and to look out at other people.

Once he asked fishermen to be fishers of men, to attract people to God's good news. Now he asks me to help form the new company of people who will walk in his way. My pilgrimage this Lent is not to be lonely, but

alongside of others who already heard the call. It does not stop there: we are together called to mission.

Today and tomorrow I shall seek others for the company of the cross.

Wednesday
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Mark 1:21-28

Christ's Journey ... To Power

"He entered the synagogue and taught."

My step today takes me to the place where Jesus took command. Tourists can visit the place where he taught at Capernaum, but it is only a site, a set of ruins. In many places this Wednesday, Christ's followers can take steps to a church to hear his living teaching.

Many differences separate his synagogue from our church. One thing, however, remains the same: his authority. When he spoke, an unclean spirit first recognized this authority: Jesus had unmasked evil. The disciples were slow to catch on. Today there is no excuse. Jesus has credentials. He has come from God and stays close to his Father. And I shall benefit.

Today let me step toward the place I can hear his strong word.

Thursday
Matthew 11:2-6
Mark 1:29-34

Christ's Journey ... To Healing Ministry

"He entered the house ... and the fever left her."

Today good health may be mine. Yet every step of my journey I carry the mark of death, and disease is a spectre never far away. I also carry the mark

and spirit of evil not around me but within me.

Jesus' journey took him to a sick bed where he healed a woman of her fever. By evening the whole town was in range, so he kept on healing and attacking the demons. These evil spirits knew that where he was, they could not prevail. He would "not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him." And well they should: in his presence they were doomed. They still are.

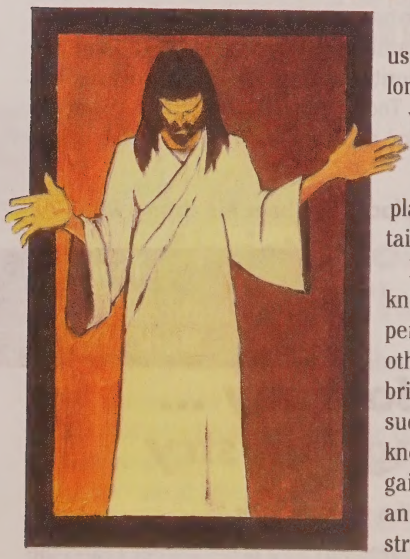
Today let me recognize Jesus as the Lord of health, the conqueror.

Friday

1 Thess. 2:17—3:10
Mark 1:35-38

Christ's Journey ... To A Ministry Of Prayer

"He went out ... and there he prayed."



The next stop, today's step, takes us to a lonely place. Life is full of lonely places. "You can kill a person with an apartment as well as with a gun—it only takes longer." Apartments are ordinarily lonely places. Crowded offices can be. Certainly sick rooms are.

Lonely places can devastate us. I know this. I have sometimes felt desperately abandoned. But there are other uses for the quiet such settings bring. Jesus leads me today to one such place—to pray. In prayer he knew the company of his Father. He gained direction for his new work, and my companions and I gain strength to follow.

Today I will seek out a lonely place—there to be refreshed.

Christ's Journey ... Into Public Life

"He went throughout all Galilee."

Sometimes I think it would be cozier if Jesus had stayed more private. If only our little club could have him to ourselves. But he will not stay up there on our stained glass windows or on that golden cross. He comes into the streets and alleys of "all Galilee" or wherever people are.

Public life is bruising. Conflict and competition are its marks. Yet in the midst of such circumstances Jesus works and serves. Today he heals a leper. It is too soon at this stage for Jesus' whole story to be told. But the leper feels he has to spread the word. From now on Jesus will not easily find lonely places again. The public is curious, hungry, seeking: It will find him, even if it will not yet understand him. He turns out to be Lord not of lonely places and holy days, but of public places and every day.

Today let my steps follow you to the public places, to serve your ways.

The Second Sunday in Lent

**"Come, follow me,
The Savior spake,
"All in my way
Abiding;
Deny yourselves,
The world forsake,
Obey my call
And guiding.
Oh, bear the cross,
Whate'er betide;
Take my example
For your guide."**

Monday

Psalm 133
Mark 2:1-12

Christ's Journey ... To The Sin Sick

"He was at home ... "

We today need Jesus as much as a paralyzed man did in Jesus' hometown—and for the same reasons. No one will tear the roof off to get any of us into the presence of Jesus; no one now needs to. We are already close.

Yet something also keeps us far apart. Jesus diagnoses what it is. Everyone expects him to have to heal, but instead he has to forgive.

The shock value of that act is gone now. In his day, it was blasphemy. To heal sickness was hard for his day, it was blasphemy. To heal sickness was hard for his enemies, easy for him. To heal sin-sickness was impossible for them—and expensive for him. He had to give his life to certify his power over sin. It is easy for God to create a world. It is hard for a perfect God to create a new being out of a sinner. But that is what happened to me.

Today let my walk show that I carry no burden, that I am forgiven.

Tuesday

1 John 1:5-10
Mark 2:23—3:7

Christ's Journey ... Toward Confrontation

"He was going through the grainfields ... "

Here comes trouble! I had the journey plotted so that there would be no days like this. The world is full enough of hassles and conflicts—I don't need "religion" to make it worse. But trouble will find those in the company of Jesus.

This time it is in a grainfield, but it could be anywhere else. The disciples are in need, so he helps them. He allows them to pluck grain on the

Sabbath. Enemies come along to quote some rules and regulations about helping at the wrong time, the wrong place.

For his enemies, it is always somehow the wrong time, the wrong place. Fortunately for me, he could both respect custom and law—and break them when love made its demands.

Today if I see need, let me also find a way to show love.

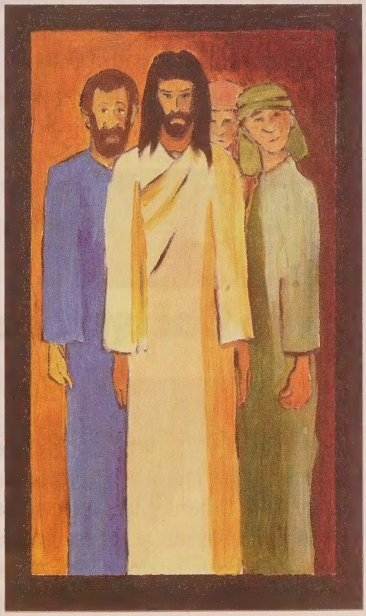
Wednesday

Deuteronomy 26:5-11
Mark 3:13-19

Christ's Journey ... To Leadership

"He called whom he desired."

Leaders need followers. Great leaders should have great followers. Jesus was clearly such a leader, but his followers were not so great. At most stops along the way they failed to understand him, because they did not recognize that God saves through suffering and a cross. They wanted him to show earthly power, to avoid shame.



Yet he gathered them, high in the hills and away from the crowd. He "called to him those whom he desired; and they came to him." He sent them out to do his work. They were to *become* great, these twelve—but only after they learned how different his way was from their preference.

Today let me discern the power you show in the weakness of the cross.

Thursday

Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 3:20-35

Christ's Journey ... Toward Rejection

"Then he went home ... and the scribes ... came."

Shall I be embarrassed by Christ today? He is to be our leader, a celebrity, a popular figure—yet he seems chiefly to attract trouble. In his home country, religious critics locate him and accuse him of being possessed by demons. With good logic he shows how, given his power over evil forces, he cannot share the world with them. But the enemies will remain unconvinced and will reject him.

I can understand those critics. But his obtuse and embarrassed family leads me to blush. Did they call out to him because he was unsafe or because they were ashamed? Whatever, he has to turn a cold shoulder, since they do not grasp his mission. He lets the crowd instead be his family—if they do the will of God.

Today let me rise above shame and rejoice that I am in Christ's company.

Friday

Isaiah 6:1-13
Mark 4:1-34

Christ's Journey ... To Secrecy

"He got into a boat ... and he taught them in parables."

Well into the journey I have trouble understanding the secrecy that surrounds it. Other leaders keep advertisers and PR firms busy telling the story of their pilgrimage. Jesus is always asking people not to tell anyone.

This time he is talking to the Twelve and "those about him"—which includes me, I pray—and starts letting us in on secrets. Outsiders do not

receive the clues because they will misuse them. But the Twelve do not do much better. They cannot see that his little Kingdom will grow like a tree from a small seed. They cannot perceive the part suffering plays in his victory. He has to keep on making the point.

Today let me discover the mystery of the power in your suffering.

Saturday
Isaiah 53
Mark 4:35-41

Christ's Journey ... Into The Tempests

"Let us go across to the other side."

Will it ever stop? Will my journey ever bring me to a safe destination, a quiet harbor? This time not a dry path but high waves are a threat. "The sea is so large, and my boat so small ... " begins a boatman's prayer. High waves, a swamped boat, storm and darkness—all these give good reason for panic.

Jesus rebukes the tempest, and it quiets. Then he turns around and rebukes us—for cowardice and faithlessness. If the storm was ominous, his scorn is worse. It is now time to push panic buttons, in the ship or wherever I shall be today. But if Jesus scolds us travelers for failing to show faith, his own example gives us reason to change our ways—to be confident.

Today let us look not at the disquiet around us but at the calmness of Christ.

The Third Sunday in Lent

On my heart imprint your image,
Blessed Jesus, king of grace,
That life's troubles nor its pleasures
Ever may your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
All my glory and salvation!

Monday

Galatians 2:11-21
Mark 5:1-20

Christ's Journey ... To The Gentiles

"They came to the other side of the sea ... "

If I am a Jew, I learned many steps back that Jesus came for me. He showed his power, he healed, he taught among our people from the first.

If I am not a Jew, I welcome the additional steps Jesus' journey takes today. He is here "on the other side of the sea." He does his work at places with strange names, in the country of the Gerasenes or the land of ten cities, the Decapolis. But his work goes on in my place as well.

It is the same work both times. If he cast out demons on Jewish soil, he must do the same here. This soil, this place, my heart—he is telling us—are also to be free of demonry and the dirt of evil. He triumphs here.

Today I rejoice in the variety of peoples among whom you work.

Tuesday

1 Cor. 15:21-28
Mark 5:21-43

Christ's Journey ... Toward New Life

"Jesus crossed again to the other side ... "

Jesus' journey seems to be nothing but a "back and forth," on paths and lakes. Yet everywhere temptation and tempest, competition and conflict, rebukes and rejections greet him. Sometimes I get tired following.

Today is different. Before this he has showed his power over illness and demons, but now I see his power over death.

Some sign of forthcoming victory makes the journey bearable. A young woman lost her life and he restored it. Three disciples get to see it—but they keep on living as blindly as before. They stumble all over the path.

They have to wait to the end of the story to understand its plot—and to see to it later that this phase of the story is told for us who are flagging and weary at midpoint.

Today near the halfway mark, let the story of the new life break into the old.

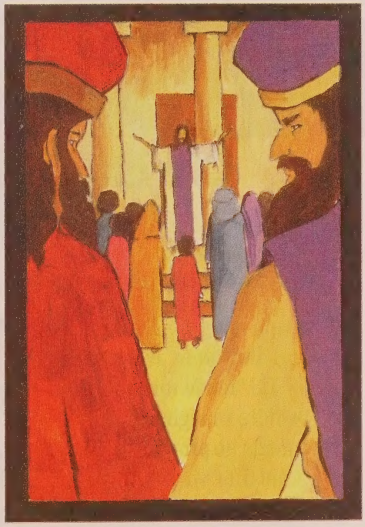
Wednesday
Jeremiah 26:1-19
Mark 6:1-33

Christ's Journey ... Toward Estrangement

"He came to his own hometown."

"Hometown Boy Makes Good!" That kind of headline is familiar. Just as common is the one about persons who gain fame elsewhere, while the people back home reject them. Sometimes the home folk have good reason to; they know the flaws of celebrities.

In the case of Jesus, they found no flaws. They simply were "offended" that the carpenter, the relative of their neighbors, was doing mighty works. They made him an alien.



I do not know much about the kind of estrangement he felt. But I do know that it was part of the journey he had to take, a blight on the path he had to walk. I may be as undiscerning as those hometown people were. But this story can work a new effect on me: I can be given the gift to see the power and love concealed in his weakness and shame.

Today let me join the company of those who rejoice in your mighty works and acts of love.

Thursday

1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Mark 6:34-44

Christ's Journey ... In Compassion

"As he landed he saw a great crowd."

Unless they can count on restaurants along the way, people who set out on journeys have to provide food. Backpackers become artists at gathering nutrients; all travelers have to carry something through desert places.

In the crowd that follows Jesus we forget to take care of such needs. But neither fainting nor starvation awaits us, if we only look up.

Jesus' disciples had too little food for too many people, but he still fed the thousands and they had food to spare. Today I hope for my daily bread, and will pray to the Father for it. More than that, I need the compassion Jesus showed a hungry crowd. He can be the one who gives me strength to follow.

Today let me look to you for help and to see in your help the Father's care.

Friday

Galatians 4:8-20
Mark 6:45-53

Christ's Journey ... Beyond Fear

"He came to them, walking on the sea."

The trip would be easier if each of these forty steps were of my own choosing. But often Jesus sends disciples where they would not want to proceed. He "made them go" into a boat, across the lake, into the wind. He was nowhere in sight.

They made no progress, just as I seem not to when he is not in sight. Then in the midst of wind and wave and darkness he appeared. They did not expect to see him and they did not recognize him.

Not much has changed. I push and pull at my oars. My companion and I lead into the wind, we fear the darkness. In the midst of it all is the presence of Christ. He has reason for disappointment in our faithlessness. He beckons us to be confident. I wonder what life would look like if, through faith in him, we left fear behind.

Today teach me to look through the storms for your presence.

Saturday

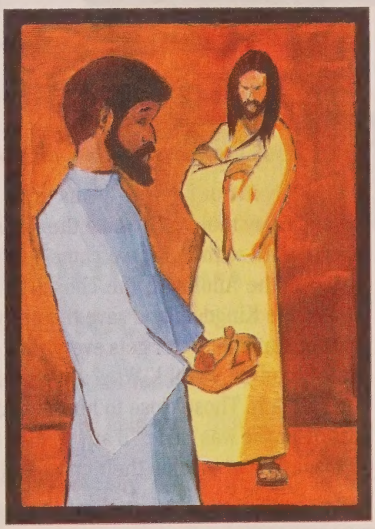
Romans 12:3-8
Mark 8:13-21

Christ's Journey ... Toward Unity

"Again he departed to the other side."

The evangelist takes pains to show how Jesus healed, cast out demons, and taught on both sides of the Sea of Galilee. He gave one Gospel of the Kingdom to two sets of people: Jews and Gentiles, men and women.

The disciples were not ready for such breaking of barriers. They did not understand what Jesus was doing and teaching. They had brought one loaf along, but they told him they had no loaves. "Why do you talk about having no bread? Have you no inkling yet?" Jesus asked about ten questions, none of which they grasped. "Do you still not understand?"

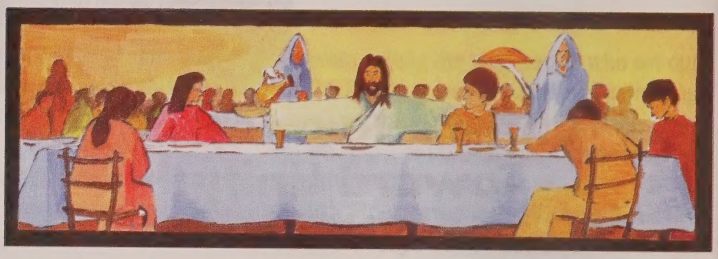


Seldom does he become as disappointed in the followers as he does today. "One loaf" stood for the unity he wanted to bring: they did not understand. Do I?

They let me learn again how the good news brings together people who were far apart.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

A multitude comes from the east and the west
To sit at the feast of salvation
With Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the blest,
Obeying the Lord's invitation.
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!



Monday

Jeremiah 16
Mark 8:27—9:1

Christ's Journey ... Toward Suffering

"And Jesus went on with his disciples ... "

Suddenly in our journey, Jesus turns and "on the way" interrupts: "Who do people say that I am?" Like the disciples we stutter and stammer some reports until with Peter we come to the point: "You are the Christ," the Messiah, the Anointed, the chosen and designated one who should announce the Kingdom and save the people.

A moment later Peter gets everything wrong, as usual. Jesus must shout, "Get behind me, Satan!" Why? Jesus is announcing that his steps must take him to death. Those close to him did not want to hear of defeat and dying. This response was clear: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Today help me to lose my life for your sake—and thus help me find it.

Tuesday

2 Corinthians 11:1-6
Mark 9:2-29

Christ's Journey ... To The Mountaintop

"He led them up to a high mountain."

I am ready for a climb today. Enough of wind and waves, the dust of trails and the smell of crowds.

Jesus was transfigured: even the word casts a spell. We see him in glory, in a preview of his resurrected life. Here is something to carry us through the days of pain ahead.

Like Peter, I want to freeze things here, to use a stop-action camera, to arrange for this insider's view to last indefinitely.

Just as quickly I am called to face a world of arguments and crowds, of children in need and ignorant followers of Jesus. I find myself lost in it all. Could I be part of the problem instead of the solution? Or shall I now begin to understand the meaning of a journey from this mountaintop of Transfiguration to the hilltop of Calvary?

Today let me glimpse ahead to the glory at the end of the road, and then "come down to earth."

Wednesday

Isaiah 49:1-6
Mark 9:30-32

Christ's Journey ... To Prophecy

"They passed through Galilee, and he was teaching."

Jesus prophesies so clearly that he will be delivered, that he must die, that he will rise.

The most wearisome feature of this journey is the stupidity of the disciples. The log of our sojourn often includes the line, "But they did not

understand ... they were afraid to ask."

Jesus speaks clearly enough, but something about my ears and heart hold me back from wanting to understand. I care for him, and hate to hear of his suffering. I care for myself, and hate to hear that I helped bring about that suffering. I don't understand because I don't want to understand. Shall I be so busy not understanding that I fail to hear: "After three days he will rise"?

Today let me hear the prophecy of a risen Lord, and let me walk in hope.

Thursday

Matthew 10:40-42
Mark 9:33-50

Christ's Journey ... To Greatness

"And they came to Capernaum."

"I'm the greatest! ... We're number one!" We hear these boasts from athletes, but we are all tempted to make them—or to wish we were in position to.

I have company in my dreams of greatness. Today Jesus asks what we talk about along the way. No one wants to admit to the fact that we talk about who is greatest, who is number one.

Wouldn't you know how Jesus would respond? He took a child and asked us to receive this child in his name. He never asked us to be childish but rather childlike. We are to serve him by serving the child.

Today let me humbly bear the cup of water to someone in need in the name of Jesus.

Friday
Matthew 18:1-9
Mark 10:32-52

Christ's Journey ... To Initiate Others

"They were on the road going up to Jerusalem."

There, in the distance, are the tall towers of Jerusalem! How we longed to get there!

At the head of our group Jesus once more tells us he is going there to die. Once more we miss the point, and argue about where we fit in the Kingdom.

Today I would like to be a "great" one and have a place of honor in his glory.

Instead I hear that if I shall be initiated into the company of honor, the only path is to drink the cup of suffering, to share in what Jesus experiences, to serve as he served.

This is not very comfortable. There must be some other way. The fact that Jesus insists on this, however, should carry us through dark days—including the darkest, one week from now.

Today I should learn how being a servant of others is a mark of participation in your company.

Saturday
Psalm 118:15-29
Mark 11:1-11

Christ's Journey ... To Jerusalem

"And he entered Jerusalem."

Jesus leads today into the holy city. He can use my garment for comfort on his ride, or to let the colt walk upon. Let me wave palms and sing psalms.

Will I find him in my city, my town, my place today? When Jesus came to

Jerusalem he looked at the Temple and then, late in the day, moved on: the Temple will not be the place for his Kingdom. He must go back to the houses and streets to meet his destiny.

I frequent the houses and streets of another time and place, but he wants to involve me in his destiny. Nothing has happened to prevent my following him.

Today let me add my hosannas—and then be ready for the Jesus of the empty streets.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

A lamb goes uncomplaining forth
To save a world of sinners.
He bears the burden all alone,
Dies shorn of all his honors.
He goes to slaughter, weak and faint,
Is led to die without complaint;
His spotless life he offers.
He bears the shame, the stripes, the wrath;
His anguish, mockery, and death
For us he gladly suffers.

Monday

1 Corinthians 6:19-20
Mark 11:15-19

Christ's Journey ... To The Temple

"And he entered the temple."

Jesus teaches us to go to holy places to be quiet, to meditate, to pray. Let us follow him.

But where, now, is the bent knee, the folded hand, the smell of incense, the sense of quiet? He is there overturning tables of money changers and chasing out the commercial interests. He wants his Father's house to be no den of outlaws and special interests, but a "house of prayer for all nations."

He is still trying to break barriers in order to create a truly holy place. I am tempted to keep the barriers, to satisfy my religious interest—until I see that it is his kind of act that will bring me close again to the Father, whose house the temple is to be.

Today I would not seek to satisfy my special interest, but to cherish "all nations" in the presence of God.

Tuesday

Isaiah 5:1-7
Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

Christ's Journey ... To A Fig Tree

"As they passed by they saw the withered fig tree."

I may not "give a fig" about all the fig trees of the world of long ago—except the one along our path today. There it stands, condemned, withered, unable to bear fruit. It is a reminder to me that when something is withered "from the roots up," nothing can come of it.

Instead I am told to be rooted in the Father's love, to ask of him in prayer,

to believe that I should receive. If my life grows out of such faith and love, it will flourish.

Today let me bear fruit for the Kingdom, through prayer and action.

Wednesday

Isaiah 55:1-13
Mark 11:27—12:12

Christ's Journey ... To Authority

"And they came again ... to the temple."

There can be only one spiritual authority in my life: either Jesus, or someone else. "Someone else" might be legalistic religious authorities. I hear him trap them into silence when they ask by what authority he condemns whatever stands in his way.

He goes further and prophecies that they will kill him. He has seized authority; there is no turning back. He is the bearer of a new way. He was rejected, but now he is the cornerstone of a new temple in the Kingdom of God. It is hard for me to risk so much as to follow him—but the newness that he offers, startling as it is, holds the only promise.

Today let me leave behind whatever authority I clung to—and hold only to your promise.

Thursday

Deuteronomy 5:1-15
Mark 13:1-37

Christ's Journey ... Toward Destruction

"And he came out of the temple."

Sometimes I look for quiet that this journey does not provide. It would be good to sit back and listen to Jesus talk about architecture and buildings.

He points to the Temple. Isn't it nice?

Instead he shocks: "There will not be left here one stone upon another." We learn the meaning of the destruction. He tells more than I can take about destroyed temples and worlds, about darkened suns and the need for alertness. "Take heed, watch ... "

It is easy to drift through life with no sense of the end, to look at history without recognizing the Lord of history. Learning to measure time, to watch, is the way I shall see beyond destruction to the new creation Christ promises on this trip.

Today I shall be watchful, to care first for eternal things.

Friday

James 5:1-11
Mark 14:3-9

Christ's Journey ... Toward Glory

"And he was at Bethany in the house of Simon."

I am torn at this stop along the journey. I am envious of the woman who treated Jesus as a king, who anointed him. And I also tend to agree with the people who despise her extravagance. Let Jesus address the issue.

He does: he sides with the person who recognizes that she could not always honor him, so she did what she could—now.

I am in a new situation. Jesus who died is now risen. He has told us he is also present in the face and in the needs of the poor. I can honor him by serving them.

Today let me bring honor to Jesus, not sparing the cost.

Saturday

Luke 15:1-10
Mark 14:17-25

Christ's Journey ... Toward The Lord's Supper

"He came with the twelve ... to table."

Nothing highlights a journey more than a meal at its end. Nothing brings a company of travelers together more happily than a meal. It is a natural that I should want to join such a company now at a festive meal.

But a cloud hangs over this one. As Jesus gives bread and wine, his body and his blood, he tells us that his blood is "poured out for many."

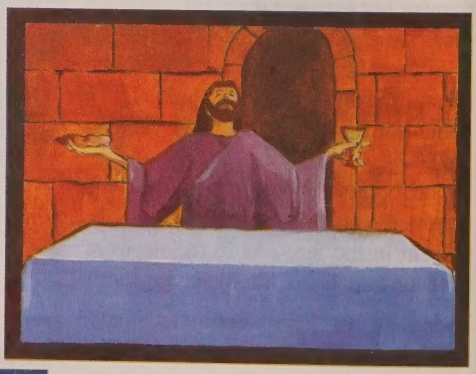
Death.

Tomorrow I shall have access to his table; next Thursday I shall recall the first Lord's Supper. But if the mark of death is there still spoken of, we who observe the meal also know that we shall be drinking the new wine in his Kingdom, that as risen Lord he will be there.

Today I prepare to receive Christ in his meal, and shall not lose hope in the face of the sign of death.

The Sixth Sunday in Lent

**Of the glorious
Body telling.
O my tongue,
Its mysteries sing,
And the blood,
All price excelling
Which the world's
Eternal King,
In a noble womb
Once dwelling,
Shed for this
World's ransoming.**



Monday

Romans 13:11-14
Mark 14:26-52

Christ's Journey ... To Agony

"They went to the Mount of Olives."

All along this journey in the Gospel of Mark those who follow Jesus keep missing the point and they keep overlooking opportunities. Now in the garden of his agony they have a great chance to watch, to be of help, to share his suffering.

So they fall asleep.

Three times.

"Are you still sleeping, taking your rest?" Strange, is it not, that I need that question addressed to me? Many are the days this season when I resolved to keep my mind on Jesus during the journey, only to wander, to nod, to lose concentration, to turn my back.

These last days give me a new opportunity to be at his side. Will I stay alert?

Today I pray for courage and conviction, for alertness.

Tuesday

Ephesians 1:15-23
Mark 14:53-72

Christ's Journey ... To Trial

"And they led Jesus to the High Priest."

Now everything came to a point, and the journey toward its end. Did Jesus, or did he not, prophesy that the temple would be destroyed? He makes no answer, except to admit that he is the Christ, the Son of the Blessed. This is blasphemy.

Before I dismiss the people who were shocked at his claim I ask myself: do

I treat anything with sufficient awe that I would even know what blasphemy is? At least we should give credit to their instinct to keep holy things holy.

The trial also shows the limits of the old holiness: its devotees cannot recognize the Christ who brings blessedness. The enemies and the guard begin to spit and to smite. And like Peter, I stand by. It is dangerous; dare I be involved with this victim?

Today I pray for wisdom to care for the holy, and courage to stand with Christ in defense of it.

Wednesday
Revelation 19:1-8
Mark 15:1-5

Christ's Journey ... To Judgment

"And they led Jesus away and delivered him to Pilate."

"Are you the King of the Jews?"

"You have said so."

Pilate, we are told, "wondered" at Jesus' silence. In one author's fictitious play, old man Pilate years later cannot even remember this scene from the days when he was governor in Judea. Yet he remains near the center of the Christian story and even gets mentioned in the creed.

Pilate speaks for civil authority. It is he who moves Jesus on to judgment. In him, law and order act, but law and order break down in the face of the perfect life and perfect love that stand before them.

Jesus is silent. He is the King.

Today let me recognize your Kingship in the midst of your weakness.

Thursday

John 18:33—19:11
Mark 15:6-20

Christ's Journey ... To Royalty

"And the soldiers led him away inside the palace."

This is the scene I have be waiting for: at the end of the journey we finally get inside the palace. Now is the time for glory. We who shared Jesus' company have been waiting to see his royal robes, his crown.

We see them. The cloak is purple, and that is good. The crown is made of thorns, and that is bad.

No, even that is good. For it shows how Jesus has to overturn all concepts of royalty and power. He did not come to be protected, to get glory. He came to my world of sin—and for that he had to humble himself. On the Thursday before he died, he stooped to wash the feet of his disciples. The perfect one offers himself in service. I begin to see what he is doing for me.

Today I see a King, robed and crowned, but with thorns—and thus equipped to save.

Friday

Psalm 22:1-8
Mark 15:20-45

Christ's Journey ... To The Cross

"And they led him out to crucify him."

In the early stages of this journey Jesus made up his own mind. He uttered the commands. In these late steps he is bound and victimized. He has no choice. The sufferer is passive and silent while others lead him around.

They lead him to the hill that has beckoned all along. Behind him is the high place where people became his disciples, the mount of Transfigura-

tion where they saw his glory. Here is only this hill at the city dump, where he hangs on the instrument of execution.

It is lonely. The company is small. Friends cower or flee, and I naturally fall silent.

If he is to act, it must be through weakness. Even through death.

Today I shall call this Friday "Good" because of the gift of love.

Saturday
Job 19:13-29
Mark 15:46-47

Christ's Journey ... To The Grave

"And taking him down they laid him in a tomb."

So it comes to this, then: He is not only silent and passive. He is dead. The end of the journey.

I can do little more than to join the company of those who take down his body, and, grieving, put it in a tomb. His journey ends as mine naturally does. In death.

There isn't much to do today, is there?

Except to remember what he told us about rising again.

Except to hope.

Today I shall grieve for what I did to produce this death, but I shall also look ahead.

Acts 3:12-21
Mark 16:1-8

Christ's Journey ... Toward Promise

" ... there you will see him as he told you."

Lent is past. The journey has ended.

But the new life has begun.

"Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here ... "

Scales drop from my eyes, a veil from my face, and layers of ignorance from my mind. Like the disciples, I failed to understand. I always wanted the story to be easier, to have Jesus come to his Kingdom through the path of glory.

Now I see why he chose the path of the cross.

He has risen. He is not here.

He is going ahead to Galilee—where he loved to carry on his mission. There he invites us to join him.

Christ's Journey And Yours

Lenten Devotions by Martin E. Marty

It is no crooked path, this WAY,
But long ...
Its darkened finger stretching back,
Its littered borders clenching fast their
Touchstones from the past-
A kingdom here;
An empire, fallen;
An altar's smoky, curling spell;
A sword, aflame,
Blocking its terminus.

It is no crooked path, this WAY,
But dark ...
Ashen colored, all its length-
Not marked upon the earth,
But cast across-
A shadow,
Spreading from its source:
A CROSS.

This is the path we walk.
This is the journey we make-
But not alone.
We follow Christ
Upon this darkened WAY,
Until,
The toppled cross a testament
Of sin forgiven, death destroyed,
We gaze into the LIGHT
So long eclipsed
And see ...

... Father ... is that You?

-Peter J. Mead

I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
—John 14:6

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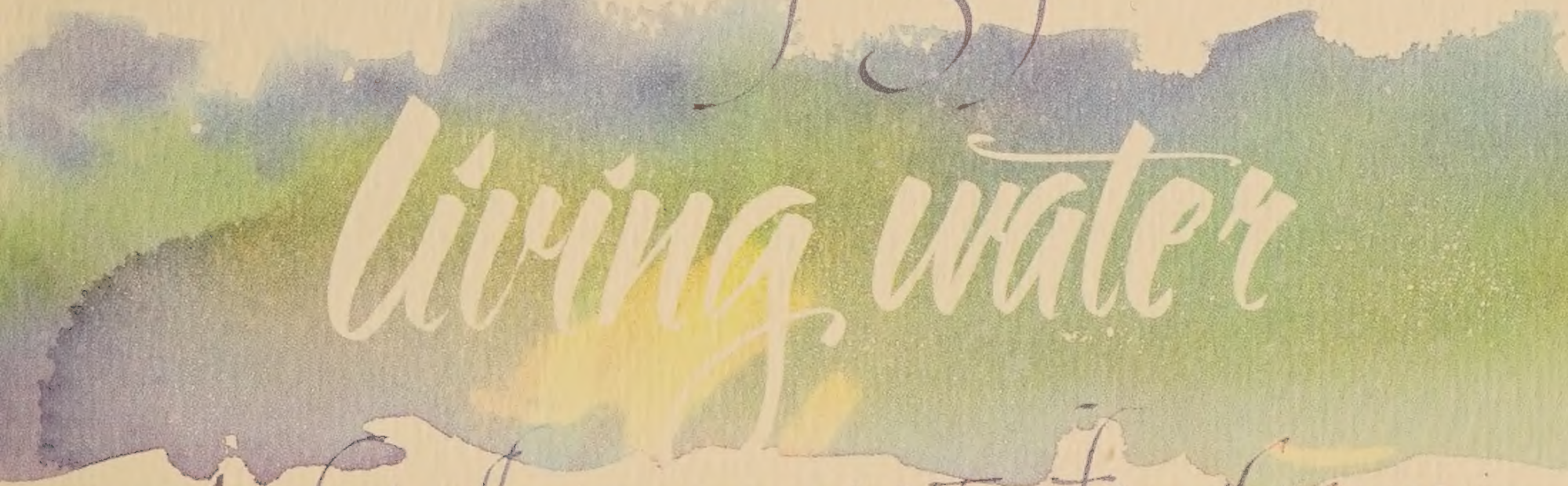
They are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in his temple · and He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.

He will lead them to springs of



And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

— REVELATION 7:15-17

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Comfort on All Saints' Day

Lord, keep us ever mindful of the depth and breadth and height of your Church—throughout the world, and throughout time. Encourage us in our living with thoughts of saints and apostles, of patriarchs and matriarchs, of hosts arrayed in white and high angelic choruses. And, when those thoughts seem too distant and perhaps too lofty, remind us of the dear ones, now hidden from our sight, who taught and fed, encouraged and nurtured us—who now stand before your throne in everlasting light! In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

+++

Today there is joy in heaven
as we lift our voices with all of the saints
in praise of the God
who is
quick to comfort,
strong to save,
full of mercy,
and abounding in steadfast love.

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GH-4

Called To Life

Called To Love

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

HENRI J.M. NOUWEN

Called To Life
Called To Love

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

HENRI J.M. NOUWEN

Lent is the most important time of the year to nurture our inner life. It is the time during which we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, but also the death and resurrection that constantly takes place within us. Life is a continuing process of the death of the old and the familiar, and being reborn again into a new hope, a new trust, and a new love. The death and resurrection of Jesus therefore is not just an historical event that took place a long time ago, but an inner event that takes place in our own heart when we are willing to be attentive to it. True repentance is an interior attitude in which we are willing to let go of everything that prevents us from growing into spiritual maturity, and there is hardly a moment in our lives in which we are not invited to detach ourselves from certain ways of thinking, ways of speaking, ways of acting, that for a long time gave us energy, but that always again need to be renewed and recreated.

Lent offers a beautiful opportunity to discover the mystery of Christ within us. It is a gentle but also demanding time. It is a time of solitude but also community, it is a time of listening to the voice within, but also a time of paying attention to other people's needs. It is a time to continuously make the passage to new inner life as well as to life with those around us.

When we live Lent attentively and gently, then Easter can truly be a celebration during which the full proclamation of the risen Christ will reverberate into the deepest place of our being. I hope that this booklet **Called To Life, Called To Love** will help us discover how to make that possible.

Henri J. M. Nouwen
September 1996

Henri Nouwen, world-renowned spiritual writer, died of a heart ailment several weeks after writing this introduction.

ASH WEDNESDAY

God Loves Us And Wants Our Love

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Joel 2:12-13

What can we say about God's love? We can say that God's love is unconditional. God does not say, "I love you, if ..." There are no ifs in God's heart. God's love for us does not depend on what we do or say, on our looks or intelligence, on our success or popularity. God's love for us existed before we were born and will exist after we have died. God's love is from eternity to eternity and is not bound to any time-related events or circumstances.

Does that mean that God does not care what we do or say? No, because God's love wouldn't be real if God didn't care. To love without condition does not mean to love without concern. God's desires to enter into relationship with us and wants our love in return.

Let's dare to enter into an intimate relationship with God without fear, trusting that we will receive love, love, and always more love.

O God, my creator and redeemer, help me this Lent to grow in my awareness and appreciation of your love for me.

THURSDAY

God Never Gives Up Loving Us

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. Psalm 1:1-2

We often confuse unconditional love with unconditional approval. God loves us without conditions but does not approve of every human behavior. God doesn't approve of betrayal, violence, hatred, suspicion, and all other expressions of evil, because they all contradict the love God wants to instill in the

human heart. Evil is the absence of God's love. Evil does not belong to God.

God's unconditional love means that God continues to love us even when we say or think evil things. God continues to wait for us as a loving parent waits for the return of a lost child. It is important for us to hold on to the truth that God never gives up loving us even when God is saddened by what we do. That truth will help us return to God's ever-present love.

O God, when I am most tempted to give up on myself, help me to remember that you never give up on me.

FRIDAY

The God Of Love And Mercy Awaits Us

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Psalm 51:15-17

One thing we know for sure about our God: Our God is a God of the living, not of the dead. God is life. God is love. God is beauty. God is goodness. God is truth. God doesn't want us to die. God wants us to live. Our God, who loves us from eternity to eternity, wants to give us life for eternity.

When that life was interrupted by our unwillingness to give our full yes to God's love, God sent Jesus to be with us and to say that great yes in our name and thus restore us to eternal life. So let's not be afraid of death. There is no cruel boss, or vengeful enemy, or cruel tyrant waiting to destroy us—only a loving, always forgiving God, eager to welcome us home.

O God, help me this day to recall in profound gratitude the eternal life you have prepared for me.

SATURDAY

Human Love Reflects God's Love

Jesus answered, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance." Luke 5:31-32

God's love for us is everlasting; it existed before we were born and will exist after we have died. It is an eternal love in which we are embraced. Living a spiritual life calls us to claim that eternal love for ourselves so that we can live our temporal loves—for parents, brothers, sisters, teachers, friends, spouses, and all people who become part of our lives—as reflections or refractions of God's eternal love. No fathers or mothers can love their children perfectly. No husbands or wives can love each other with unlimited love. There is no human love that is not broken somewhere ... No human love is the perfect love our hearts desire, and sometimes human love is so imperfect that we can hardly recognize it as love.

When our broken love is the only love we can have, we are easily thrown into despair, but when we can live our broken love as a partial reflection of God's perfect, unconditional love, we can forgive one another and enjoy together the love we have to offer ... We must trust that the source of all love is God's unlimited love, and that this love is not far away from us but is the gift of God's Spirit dwelling within us.

O God, help me not to demand of others the perfect love they cannot give.

SUNDAY, FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Seek Treasures Of Faith Here And Now

Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." Mark 1:15

Patience is a hard discipline. It is not just waiting until something happens over which we have no control: the arrival of the bus, the end of the rain, the return of a friend, the resolution of a conflict. Patience is not a waiting passivity until someone else does something. Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest, to be completely present to the moment, to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.

O God who waits in eternity, help me to live graciously in the here and now.

MONDAY, FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Choose Love By Taking Small Steps Daily

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Leviticus 19:17-18

The knowledge of being loved in an unconditional way, before the world presents us with its conditions, cannot come from books, lectures, television programs or workshops. This spiritual knowledge comes from people who witness to God's love for us through their words and deeds. These people can be close to us, but they can also live far away or may even have lived long ago. Their witness announces the truth of God's love and calls us to act in accordance with it ...

How can we choose love when we have experienced so little of it? We choose love by taking small steps of love every time there is an opportunity. A smile, a handshake, a word of encouragement, a phone call, a card, an embrace, a kind greeting, a gesture of support, a moment of attention, a helping hand, a present, a financial contribution, a visit—all these are little steps toward love.

Each step is like a candle burning in the night. It does not take the darkness away, but it guides us through the darkness.

O Lord, help me to take the small steps of love I need to take today.

TUESDAY, FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Thoughts Need Not Cut Us Off From God

When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven ... Matthew 6:7-9

Our minds are always active. We analyze, reflect, daydream or dream.

There is not a moment during the day or night when we are not thinking. You might say our thinking is "unceasing." Sometimes we wish that we could stop thinking for a while; that would save us from many worries, guilt feelings, and fears. Our ability to think is our greatest gift, but it is also the source of our greatest pain. Do we have to become victims of unceasing thoughts? No, we can convert our unceasing thinking into unceasing prayer by making our inner monologue into a continuing dialogue with God, who is the source of all love.

Let's break out of our isolation and realize that Someone who dwells in the center of our beings wants to listen with love to all that occupies and preoccupies our minds.

O Holy Spirit, convert my never-ending flow of thoughts into prayer.

WEDNESDAY, FIRST WEEK OF LENT

God Wants To Forgive And Heal

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Psalm 51:1-2

Often hell is portrayed as a place of punishment and heaven as a place of reward. But this concept easily leads us to think about God as either a policeman, who tries to catch us when we make a mistake and send us to prison when our mistakes become too big, or a Santa Claus, who counts up all our good deeds and puts rewards in our stockings at the end of the year.

God, however, is neither a policeman nor a Santa Claus. God does not send us to heaven or hell depending on how often we obey or disobey. God is love and only love. In God there is no hatred, desire for revenge, or pleasure in seeing us punished. God wants to forgive, heal, restore, show us endless mercy, and see us come home. But just as the father of the prodigal son let his son make his own decision, God gives us the freedom to refuse divine love, even at the risk of destroying ourselves. Hell is not God's choice. It is ours.

Which image of God do you bring to prayer and meditation?

THURSDAY, FIRST WEEK OF LENT

God Always Gives More Than Enough

Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will you give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Matthew 7:9-11

God is a God of abundance, not a God of scarcity. Jesus reveals to us God's abundance when he offers so much bread to the people that there are twelve large baskets with leftover scraps, and when he makes his disciples catch so many fish that their boat nearly sinks. God doesn't give us just enough. God gives us more than enough; more bread and fish than we can eat, more love than we dared to ask for.

God is a generous giver, but we can only see and enjoy God's generosity when we love God with all of our hearts, minds, and strength. As long as we say, "I will love you, God, but first show me your generosity," we will remain distant from God and unable to experience what God truly wants to give us, which is life and life in abundance.

Lord, help me to love you with all my heart, mind and strength so that I can receive all the bounty of your love.

FRIDAY, FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Forgiving Is A Healing In Our Own Hearts

So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24

How can we forgive those who do not want to be forgiven? Our deepest desire is that the forgiveness we offer will be received. This mutuality between giving and receiving is what creates peace and harmony. But if our condition for giving forgiveness is that it will be received, we seldom will forgive! Forgiving the other is first and foremost an inner movement. It is an act that

removes anger, bitterness, and the desire for revenge from our hearts and helps us to reclaim our human dignity. We cannot force those we want to forgive into accepting our forgiveness. They might not be able or willing to do so. They many not even know or feel that they have wounded us.

The only people we can really change are ourselves. Forgiving others is first and foremost healing our own hearts.

What forgiving have you delayed? Can you do it now?

SATURDAY, FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Saints Always Focus On God

Today the Lord has obtained your agreement; to be his treasured people, as he promised you, and to keep his commandments; for him to set you high above all nations that he has made, in praise and in fame and in honor; and for you to be a people holy to the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 26:18-19

Through baptism we become part of a family much larger than our biological family. It is a family of people "set apart" by God to be light in the darkness. These set-apart people are called saints. Although we tend to think about saints as holy and pious, and picture them with halos above their heads and ecstatic gazes, true saints are much more accessible. They are men and women like us, who live ordinary lives and struggle with ordinary problems. What makes them saints is their clear and unwavering focus on God and God's people. Some of their lives may look quite different, but most of their lives are remarkably similar to our own.

The saints are our brothers and sisters, calling us to become like them.

What reminds you that you are one of the "set-apart people" called to be holy?

SUNDAY, SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Prayer And Solitude Help Us Listen To God

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Romans 8:31-34

Many voices ask for our attention. There is a voice that says, "Prove that you are a good person." Another voice says, "You'd better be ashamed of yourself." There also is a voice that says, "Nobody really cares about you," and one that says, "Be sure to become successful, popular, and powerful." But underneath all these often very noisy voices is a still, small voice that says, "You are my Beloved, my favor rests on you." That's the voice we need most of all to hear. To hear that voice, however, requires special effort; it requires solitude, silence, and a strong determination to listen.

That's what prayer is. It is listening to the voice that calls us "my Beloved."

What can I do today to help myself learn to hear the voice of God within?

MONDAY, SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Pray For The Grace To Forgive

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.
Luke 6:36-37

We are all wounded people. Who wounds us? Often those whom we love and those who love us. When we feel rejected, abandoned, abused, manipulated, or violated, it is mostly by people very close to us: our parents, our friends, our spouses, our lovers, our children, our neighbors, our teachers, our pastors. Those who love us wound us too. That's the tragedy of our lives. This is what makes forgiveness from the heart so difficult. It is precisely our hearts that are wounded. We cry out, "You, who I expected to be there for me, you have abandoned me. How can I ever forgive you for that?"

Forgiveness often seems impossible, but nothing is impossible for God. The God who lives within us will give us the grace to go beyond our wounded selves and say, "In the name of God you are forgiven."

Lord, help me to forgive all who have hurt me.

TUESDAY, SECOND WEEK OF LENT

We Are Spirit-guided Sons And Daughters

You are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Matthew 23:8-9

Who are we? Are we what we do? Are we what others say about us? Are we the power we have? It often seems that way in our society. But the Spirit of Jesus given to us reveals our true spiritual identities. The Spirit reveals that we belong not to a world of success, fame, or power but to God. The world enslaves us with fear; the Spirit frees us from that slavery and restores us to the true relationship. That is what Paul means when he says, "All who are guided by the Spirit of God are sons [and daughters] of God, for what you received was not the spirit of slavery to bring you back into fear; you received the spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out, 'Abba, Father!'" (Romans 8:15). Who are we? We are God's beloved sons and daughters!

Calling God "Abba, Father" is a cry of the heart, a prayer welling up from our innermost beings. It has nothing to do with naming God but everything to do with claiming God as the source of who we are.

What keeps you from freely and wholeheartedly responding to God as your loving Father?

WEDNESDAY, SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Life Is Full Of Sorrows And Joys

But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" Matthew 20:22

"Can we drink the cup?" is the most challenging and radical question we

can ask ourselves. The cup is the cup of life, full of sorrows and joys. Can we hold our cups and claim them as our own? Can we lift our cups to offer blessings to others, and can we drink our cups to the bottom as cups that bring us salvation?

Keeping this question alive in us is one of the most demanding spiritual exercises we can practice.

Drinking our cups means fully appropriating and internalizing what each of us has acknowledged as our life, with all its unique sorrows and joys. How do we drink our cups? We drink them as we listen in silence to the truth of our lives, as we speak in trust with friends about ways we want to grow, and as we act in deeds of service. Drinking our cups is following freely and courageously God's call and staying faithfully on the path that is ours. Thus, our life cups become the cups of salvation. When we have emptied them to the bottom, God will fill them with "water" for eternal life.

What do you fail to accept and appreciate about your life?

THURSDAY, SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Painful Contradictions Push Us Toward God

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their way, according to the fruit of their doings.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

The many contradictions of our lives—such as being home while feeling homeless, being busy while feeling bored, being popular while feeling lonely, being believers while feeling many doubts—can frustrate, irritate, and even discourage us. They make us feel that we are never fully present. Every door that opens for us makes us see how many more doors are closed.

But there is another response. These same contradictions can bring us into touch with a deeper longing, for the fulfillment of a desire that lives beneath all desires and that only God can satisfy. Contradictions, thus understood, create the friction that can help us move toward God.

Lord, help me to realize that my heart and mind will always be restless and conflicted until they rest in you.

FRIDAY, SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Love Amid Hatred Offers Hope

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him ... They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. Genesis 37:3-4, 18

How can someone ever trust in the existence of an unconditional divine love when most, if not all, of what he or she has experienced is the opposite of love—fear, hatred, violence, and abuse?

They are not condemned to be victims! There remains within them, hidden as it may seem, the possibility to choose love, Many people who have suffered the most horrendous rejections and been subject to the most cruel torture have been able to choose love. By choosing love they became witnesses not only to human resiliency but also to the divine love that transcends all human loves. Those who choose, even on a small scale, to love in the midst of hatred and fear are the people who offer true hope to our world.

Resolve today not to play the victim or to feel sorry for yourself but instead to choose to rise above the hatred in your life.

SATURDAY, SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Self-Rejection Saps The Spiritual Life

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love ... He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him. Psalm 103:8, 10-11

We all have our secrets; thoughts, memories, feelings that we keep to ourselves. Often we think, "If people knew what I feel or think, they would not love me." These carefully kept secrets can do us much harm. They can make us feel guilty or ashamed and may lead us to self-rejection, depression, and

even suicidal thoughts and actions ...

One of the greatest dangers in the spiritual life is self-rejection. When we say, "If people really knew me, they wouldn't love me," we choose the road toward darkness. Often we are made to believe that self-deprecation is a virtue, called humility. But humility is in reality the opposite of self-deprecation. It is the grateful recognition that we are precious in God's eyes and that all we are is pure gift. To grow beyond self-rejection we must have the courage to listen to the voice calling us God's beloved sons and daughters, and the determination always to live our lives according to this truth.

What helps you to realize that you are precious in God's eyes?

SUNDAY, THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Those Between Wants Will Be Restless

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Exodus 20:2-4

Sometimes we behave like children in a toy shop. We want this, and that, and then something else. The many options confuse us and create in us an enormous restlessness. When someone says, "Well, what do you want? You can have one thing. Make up your mind," we do not know what to choose.

As long as our hearts keep vacillating among these many wants, we cannot move forward in life with inner peace and joy. That is why we need inner and outer disciplines, to get beyond these wants and discover our mission in life.

What are your spiritual priorities? How do they affect your daily life?

MONDAY, THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Do We Long For New Life Or Old Life?

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? Psalm 42:1-2

Do we desire to be with Christ in the resurrection? It seems that most of us are not waiting for this new life but instead are doing everything possible to prolong our mortal lives. Still, as we grow more deeply into the spiritual life—the life in communion with our risen Lord—we gradually get in touch with our desire to move through the gate of death into eternal life with Christ. This is no death wish, but a desire for the fulfillment of all desires.

The knowledge that Jesus came to dress our mortal bodies with immortality must help us develop an inner desire to be born to a new, eternal life with him and encourage us to find ways to prepare for it ... The sacramental life and the life with the Word of God gradually make us ready to let go of our mortal bodies and receive the mantle of immortality.

Thus, death is not the enemy who puts an end to everything but the friend who takes us by the hand and leads us into the Kingdom of eternal love.

O Lord, help me to make union with you the desire that most deeply affects my daily life—and my attitude toward my death.

TUESDAY, THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Forgiveness Is The Way To Freedom

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." Matthew 18:21-22

Community is not possible without the willingness to forgive one another "seventy-seven times." Forgiveness is the cement of community life. Forgiveness holds us together though good times and bad times, and it allows us to grow in mutual love ...

To forgive another person from the heart is an act of liberation. We set that person free from the negative bonds that exist between us. We say, "I no longer hold your offense against you." But there is more. We also free ourselves from the burden of being the "offended one." As long as we do not forgive those who have wounded us, we carry them with us or, worse, pull them as a heavy load. The great temptation is to cling in anger to our enemies and then define ourselves as being offended and wounded by them. Forgiveness, therefore, liberates not only the other but also ourselves. It is the way to the freedom of the children of God.

What are the grudges you are clinging to?

WEDNESDAY, THIRD WEEK OF LENT

God Is For Us, With Us, Within Us

For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? Deuteronomy 4:7-8

God made a covenant with us. The word covenant means "coming together." God wants to come together with us. In many of the stories in the Hebrew Bible, we see that God appears as a God who defends us against our enemies, protects us against dangers, and guides us to freedom. God is God-for-us. When Jesus comes a new dimension of the covenant is revealed. In Jesus, God is born, grows to maturity, lives, suffers, and dies as we do. God is God-with-us. Finally, when Jesus leaves he promises the Holy Spirit. In the Holy Spirit, God reveals the full depth of the covenant. God wants to be as close to us as our breath. God wants to breathe in us, so that all we say, think, and do is completely inspired by God. God is God-within-us. Thus, God's covenant reveals to us how much God loves us.

Be grateful today for the awesome gift of Christian faith and for your redemption.

THURSDAY, THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Emotional Life May Control Spiritual Life

O that today you would listen to his voice! Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. Psalm 95: 7-9

Our emotional lives move up and down constantly. Sometimes we experience great mood swings; from excitement to depression, from joy to sorrow, from inner harmony to inner chaos. A little event, a word from someone, a disappointment in work, many things can trigger such mood swings. Mostly we have little control over these changes. It seems that they happen to us rather

than being created by us.

So it is important to know that our emotional life is not the same as our spiritual life. Our spiritual life is the life of the Spirit of God within us. As we feel our emotions shift, we must connect our spirits with the Spirit of God and remind ourselves that what we feel is not who we are. We are and remain, whatever our moods, God's beloved children ...

Although it is very hard to control our moods, we can gradually overcome them by a well-disciplined spiritual life. This can prevent us from acting out our moods. We might not "feel" like getting up in the morning because we "feel" that life is not worth living, that nobody loves us, and that our work in boring. But if we get up anyhow, to spend some time reading the Gospels, praying the Psalms, and thanking God for a new day, our moods may lose their power over us.

Holy Spirit, help me to achieve the discipline I need for a devout Christian life.

FRIDAY, THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Being Alone With God

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.
Mark 12:30

Hiddenness is an essential quality of the spiritual life. Solitude, silence, ordinary tasks, being with people without great agendas, sleeping, eating, working, playing ... all of that without being different from others, that is the life Jesus lived and the life he asks us to live. It is in hiddenness that we can find a true intimacy with God and a true love for people. Even during his active ministry, Jesus continued to return to hidden places to be alone with God. If we don't have a hidden life with God, our public life for God cannot bear fruit ...

Solitude allows us to be alone with God. There we experience that we belong not to people, not even to those who love us and care for us, but to God and God alone.

Resolve to spend some time today alone with God.

SATURDAY, THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Our Deepest Desires Are Satisfied Only In Eternity

Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn. Hosea 6:1-3

Dying is returning home. But even though we have been told this many times by many people, we seldom desire to return home. We prefer to stay where we are. We know what we have; we do not know what we will get. Even the most appealing images of the afterlife cannot take away the fear of dying. We cling to life, even when our relationships are difficult, our economic circumstances harsh, and our health quite poor.

Still, Jesus came to take the sting out of death and to help us gradually realize that we don't have to be afraid of death, since death leads us to the place where the deepest desires of our hearts will be satisfied. It is not easy for us to truly believe that, but every little gesture of trust will bring us closer to this truth.

We will all die one day. That is one of the few things we can be sure of. But will we die well? That is less certain. Dying well means dying for others, making our lives fruitful for those we leave behind. The big question, therefore, is not "What can I still do in the years I have left to live?" but "How can I prepare myself for my death so that my life can continue to bear fruit in the generations that will follow me?"

Try to picture heaven as the fulfillment of your deepest desire.

SUNDAY, FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

We Are Called To Be Faithful In Small Tasks

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2:10

So many terrible things happen every day that we start wondering whether the few things we do ourselves make any sense. When people are starving only a few thousand miles away, when wars are raging close to our borders, when countless people in our cities have no homes to live in, our own activities look futile. Such considerations, however, can paralyze and depress us.

Here the word "call" becomes important. We are not called to save the world, solve all problems, and help all people. But each of us has our own unique call, in our families, in our work, in our world. We have to keep asking God to help us see clearly what our call is and to give us the strength to live out that call with trust. Then we will discover that our faithfulness to a small task is the most healing response to the illnesses of our time.

What small tasks are you called to be faithful to today?

MONDAY, FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Joy Is Hidden In Sorrow, Sorrow In Joy

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30:4-5

Joy is what makes life worth living, but for many joy seems hard to find. They complain that their lives are sorrowful and depressing. What then brings the joy we so much desire? Are some people just lucky, while others have run out of luck? Strange as it may sound, we can choose joy. Two people can be part of the same event, but one may choose to live it quite differently than the other. One may choose to trust that what happened, painful as it may be, holds a promise. The other may choose despair and be destroyed by it. What makes us human is precisely this freedom of choice.

Joy and sorrow are never separated. When our hearts rejoice at a spectacular view, we may miss our friends who cannot see it, and when we are overwhelmed with grief, we may discover what true friendship is all about. Joy is hidden in sorrow and sorrow in joy. If we try to avoid sorrow at all costs, we may never taste joy, and if we are suspicious of ecstasy, agony can never reach us either. Joy and sorrow are the parents of our spiritual growth.

Today, strive to embrace your joys as well as your sorrows.

TUESDAY, FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Enough Light To Take The Next Step

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the seas; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Psalm 46:1-3

Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, "How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or ten years from now?" There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step: what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day. The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all shadows away.

Instead of seeking too many answers about your future, resolve today to embrace the present and thank God for what you have.

WEDNESDAY, FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Our Security Is Based On God's Love

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me." Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Isaiah 49:14-15

What is the basis of our security? When we start thinking about that question, we may give many answers: success, money, friends, property, popularity, family, connections, insurance, and so on. We may not always think that any of these forms the basis of our security, but our actions or feelings may tell us otherwise. When we start losing our money, our friends, or our popularity, our anxiety often reveals how deeply our sense of security is rooted in these things.

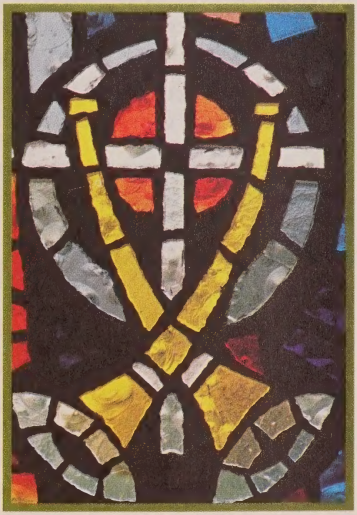
A spiritual life is a life in which our security is based not in any created things, good as they may be, but in God, who is everlasting love. We probably will never be completely free from our attachment to the temporal world, but if we want to live in that world in a truly free way, we'd better not belong to it.

What did the most recent crisis in your life reveal about the basis for your security?

THURSDAY, FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Spiritual Reading Helps Us Listen To God

You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. John 5:39-40



Reading often means gathering information, acquiring new insight and knowledge, and mastering a new field. It can lead us to degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Spiritual reading, however, is different. It means not simply reading about spiritual things but also reading about spiritual things in a spiritual way. That requires a willingness not just to read but to be read, not just to master but to be mastered by words. As long as we read the Bible or a spiritual book simply to acquire knowledge, our reading does not help in our spiritual lives. We can become very knowledgeable about spiritual matters without becoming truly spiritual people.

As we read spiritually about spiritual things, we open our hearts to God's voice. Sometimes we must be willing to put down the book we are reading and just listen to what God is saying to us through its words.

When you read Scripture, stop and listen occasionally for the messages that may be directed to you.

FRIDAY, FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Accepting Our Brokenness–And Living It

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all. He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken. Psalm 34:18-20

Jesus was broken on the cross. He lived his suffering and death not as an evil to avoid at all costs but as a mission to embrace. We too are broken. We live with broken bodies, broken hearts, broken minds, or broken spirits. We suffer from broken relationships.

How can we live our brokenness? Jesus invites us to embrace our brokenness as he embraced the cross and live it as part of our mission. He asks us not to reject our brokenness as a curse from God that reminds us of our sinfulness but to accept it and put it under God's blessing for our purification and sanctification. Thus, our brokenness can become a gateway to new life.

What helps you accept your condition as sinful and flawed—yet redeemed and called to contribute in your own special ways?

SATURDAY, FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Living Without Prejudices Is Difficult

Nicodemus ... asked, "Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?"
John 7:51

One of the hardest spiritual tasks is to live without prejudices. Sometimes we aren't even aware how deeply rooted our prejudices are. We may think that we relate to people who are different than we are in color, religion, sexual orientation, or lifestyle as equals, but in concrete circumstances our spontaneous thoughts, uncensored words, and knee-jerk reactions often reveal that our prejudices are still there.

Strangers, people different from us, stir up fear, discomfort, suspicion, and hostility. They make us lose our sense of security just by being "other." Only

when we fully claim that God loves us in an unconditional way and look at "those other persons" as equally loved can we begin to discover that the great variety in humanity is an expression of the immense richness of God's heart. Then the need to prejudge people can gradually disappear.

Make known to me my prejudices and help me to overcome them.

SUNDAY, FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Those Who Lose Their Lives Will Gain Them

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. John 12:25

The great paradox of life is that those who lose their lives will gain them. This paradox becomes visible in very ordinary situations. If we cling to our friends, we may lose them, but if we are nonpossessive in our relationships, we will make many friends. If fame is what we seek and desire, it often vanishes as soon as we acquire it, but if we have no need to be known, we might be remembered long after our deaths. When we want to be in the center, we easily end up on the margins, but when we are free enough to be wherever we must be, we often find ourselves in the center.

Giving away our lives for others is the greatest of all human acts. This will gain us our lives.

Which of your daily routines reveal self-centeredness? Which reveal openness to God and to others?

MONDAY, FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Life Is Unpredictable; Trust Jesus

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. Psalm 23:1-4

Life is unpredictable. We can be happy one day and sad the next, healthy one day and sick the next, rich one day and poor the next, alive one day and

dead the next. So who is there to hold on to? Who is there to feel secure with? Who is there to trust at all times? Only Jesus, the Christ. He is our Lord, our shepherd, our rock, our stronghold, our refuge, our brother, our guide, and our friend. He came from God to be with us. He died for us, he was raised from the dead to open for us the way to God, and he is seated at God's right hand to welcome us home.

Jesus, loving shepherd, guide and friend, may I always turn to you for the help I need to live my faith.

TUESDAY, FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Patience Is Suffering Through The Present

The people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Numbers 21:5

How do we wait for God? We wait with patience. But patience does not mean passivity. Waiting patiently is not like waiting for the bus to come, the rain to stop, or the sun to rise. It is an active waiting in which we live the present moment to the full in order to find there the signs of the One we are waiting for.

The word patience comes from the Latin verb *patior*, which means "to suffer." Waiting patiently is suffering through the present moment, tasting it to the full, and letting the seeds that are sown in the ground in which we stand grow into strong plants. Waiting patiently always means paying attention to what is happening right before our eyes and seeing there the first rays of God's glorious coming.

O God, when even trivial delays—missing a stop light or getting in a slow line—irritate me, I realize how much I need to learn patience. Help me to make all my waiting a waiting for you.

WEDNESDAY, FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Return Often To God's Word

If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free. John 8:31-32

True freedom is the freedom of the children of God. To reach that freedom requires a lifelong discipline since so much in our world militates against it. The political, economic, social, and even religious powers surrounding us all want to keep us in bondage so that we will obey their commands and be dependent on their rewards.

But the spiritual truth that leads to freedom is the truth that we belong not to the world but to God, whose beloved children we are. By living lives in which we keep returning to that truth in word and deed, we will gradually grow into our true freedom.

What shows that you belong to God, not to the world?

THURSDAY, FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Promises Of Love In An Everlasting Covenant

I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. Genesis 17:7

When God makes a covenant with us, God says, "I will love you with an everlasting love. I will be faithful to you, even when you run away from me, reject me, or betray me." In our society we don't speak much about covenants; we speak about contracts. When we make a contract with a person, we say, "I will fulfill my part as long as you fulfill yours. When you don't live up to your promises, I no longer have to live up to mine." Contracts are often broken because the partners are unwilling or unable to be faithful to their terms.

But God didn't make a contract with us; God made a covenant with us, and God wants our relationships with one another to reflect that covenant. That is why marriage, friendship, and life in community are all ways to give visibility to God's faithfulness in our lives together.

O Faithful One, help me to be faithful to all my commitments.

FRIDAY, FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Give—And Receive—Consolation

In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears. Psalm 18:6

Consolation is a beautiful word. It means "to be" (con-) "with the lonely one" (solus). To offer consolation is one of the most important ways to care. Life is so full of pain, sadness, and loneliness that we often wonder what we can do to alleviate the immense suffering we see. We can and must offer consolation. We can and must console the mother who lost her child, the person with AIDS, the family whose house burned down, the soldier who was wounded, the teenager who contemplates suicide, the old man who wonders why he should stay alive.

To console does not mean to take away the pain but rather to be there and say, "You are not alone, I am with you. Together we can carry the burden. Don't be afraid. I am here." That is consolation. We all need to give it as well as to receive it.

Who needs my consolation today?

SATURDAY, FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

All Of Us Can Make God Visible

My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations shall know that I the Lord sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them forevermore. Ezekiel 37:27-28

A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in community is about. Each of us is like a little stone,

but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say, "I made God visible." But others who see us together can say, "They made God visible." Community is where humility and glory touch.

What part are you playing in your neighborhood? In your parish? Are you doing too little? Are you trying to do too much?

PASSION SUNDAY

No Happy Ending In This World

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. Isaiah 50:7

Many people live with the unconscious or conscious expectation that eventually things will get better; wars, hunger, poverty, oppression, and exploitation will vanish; and all people will live in harmony. Their lives and work are motivated by that expectation. When this does not happen in their lifetimes, they are often disillusioned and experience themselves as failures.

But Jesus doesn't support such an optimistic outlook. He foresees not only the destruction of his beloved city, Jerusalem, but also a world full of cruelty, violence, and conflict. For Jesus there is no happy ending in this world. The challenge of Jesus is not to solve all the world's problems before the end of time but to remain faithful at all cost.

Are your expectations grounded in Christian faith?

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Facing Ridicule And Persecution In Trust

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.
Psalm 27:1, 14

In a world so full of social and political turmoil and immense human suffering, people of faith will often be ridiculed because of their so-called

ineffectiveness. Many will say, "If you believe that there is a loving God, let your God do something about this mess!" Others will simply declare religion irrelevant, while others will consider it an obstacle to the creation of a new and better world.

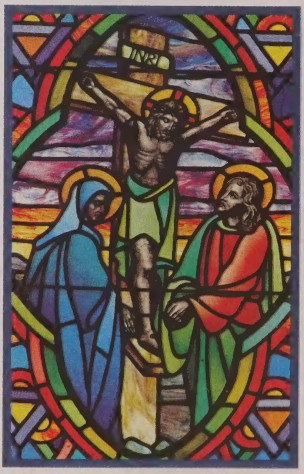
Jesus tells his followers that, as he was, they will be persecuted, arrested, tortured, and killed. But he also tells us not to worry but to trust in him at all times ... Let's not be afraid of the skepticism and cynicism coming our way, but trust that God will give us the strength to hold our ground.

Lord, help me to be courageous in living my faith—and in defending it when I am called on to do so.

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

We All 'Hand Others Over To Suffering'

Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. John 13:21-22



People who live close together can be sources of great sorrow for one another. When Jesus chose his twelve apostles, Judas was one of them. Judas is called a traitor. A traitor, according to the literal meaning of the Greek word for "betraying," is someone who hands the other over to suffering.

The truth is that we all have something of the traitor in us because each of us hands our fellow human beings over to suffering somehow, somewhere, mostly without intending or even knowing it. Many children, even grown-up children, can experience deep anger toward their parents for having protected them too much or too little. When we are willing to confess that we often hand those we love over to suffering, even against our best intentions, we will be more ready to forgive those who, mostly against their will, are the causes of our pain.

Consider the ways you may be causing others to suffer.

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Faithful Witness Doesn't Always Yield Results

Insults have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.

Psalm 69:20

We belong to a generation that wants to see the results of our work. We want to be productive and see with our own eyes what we have made. But that is not the way of God's Kingdom. Often our witness for God does not lead to tangible results. Jesus himself died as a failure on the cross. There was no success there to be proud of. Still, the fruitfulness of Jesus' life is beyond any human measure. As faithful witnesses of Jesus, we have to trust that our lives too will be faithful, even though we cannot see their fruits. The fruits of our lives may be visible only to those who live after us.

What is important is how well we love. God will make our love fruitful, whether we see that fruitfulness or not.

Lord, help me to learn not to expect "success" in all that I do.

HOLY THURSDAY

Making Our Lives Like Christ's

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

When Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, he summarized in these gestures his own life. Jesus is chosen from all eternity, blessed at his baptism in the Jordan River, broken on the cross, and given as bread to the world. Being chosen, blessed, broken, and given is the sacred journey of the Son of God, Jesus the Christ.

We when take bread, bless it, break it, and give it with the words, "This is the body of Christ," we express our commitment to make our lives conform to

the life of Christ. We too want to live as people chosen, blessed, and broken, and then become food for the world.

Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of the Eucharist. Help me to appreciate it and to live up to the challenge of unselfish giving that it presents to us.

GOOD FRIDAY

Are We Willing To Accept Our Cross?

Into your hands I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. Psalm 31:5

Jesus says, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." He does not say, "Make a cross" or "Look for a cross." Each of us has a cross to carry. There is no need to make one or look for one. The cross we have is hard enough for us! But are we willing to take it up, to accept it as our cross?

Maybe we can't study, maybe we are handicapped, maybe we suffer from depression, maybe we experience conflict in our families, maybe we are victims of violence or abuse. We didn't choose any of it, but these things are our crosses. We can ignore them, reject them, refuse them or hate them. But we can also take up these crosses and follow Jesus with them.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world!

HOLY SATURDAY

The Resurrection Was Hidden

We have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

The resurrection of Jesus was a hidden event. Jesus didn't rise from the grave to baffle his opponents, to make a victory statement, or to prove to those who crucified him that he was right after all. Jesus rose as a sign to those who loved him and followed him that God's divine love is stronger than death. To the women and men who committed themselves to him, he revealed that his mission had been fulfilled. To those who shared in his ministry, he gave the sacred task to call all people into the new life with him.

The world didn't take notice. Only those whom he called by name, with whom he broke bread, and to whom he spoke words of peace were aware of what happened. Still, it was this hidden event that freed humanity from the shackles of death.

O God, help me to know and appreciate the awesome mysteries of redemption that are largely hidden from our view.

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from which these Lenten devotions were selected:

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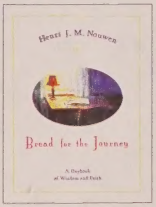

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EASTER

The Seeds Of Eternity Are Sown In Our Lives

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. Psalm 118:17-18

Our short lives on earth are sowing time. If there were no resurrection of the dead, everything we live on earth would come to nothing. How can we believe in a God who loves us unconditionally if all the joys and pains of our lives are in vain, vanishing in the earth with our mortal flesh and bones? Because God loves us unconditionally, from eternity to eternity, God cannot allow our bodies—the same as that in which Jesus, his Son and our Savior, appeared to us—to be lost in final destruction.

No, life on earth is the time when the seeds of the risen body are planted. Paul says, "What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body." (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

This wonderful knowledge that nothing we live in our bodies is lived in vain holds a call for us to live every moment as a seed of eternity.

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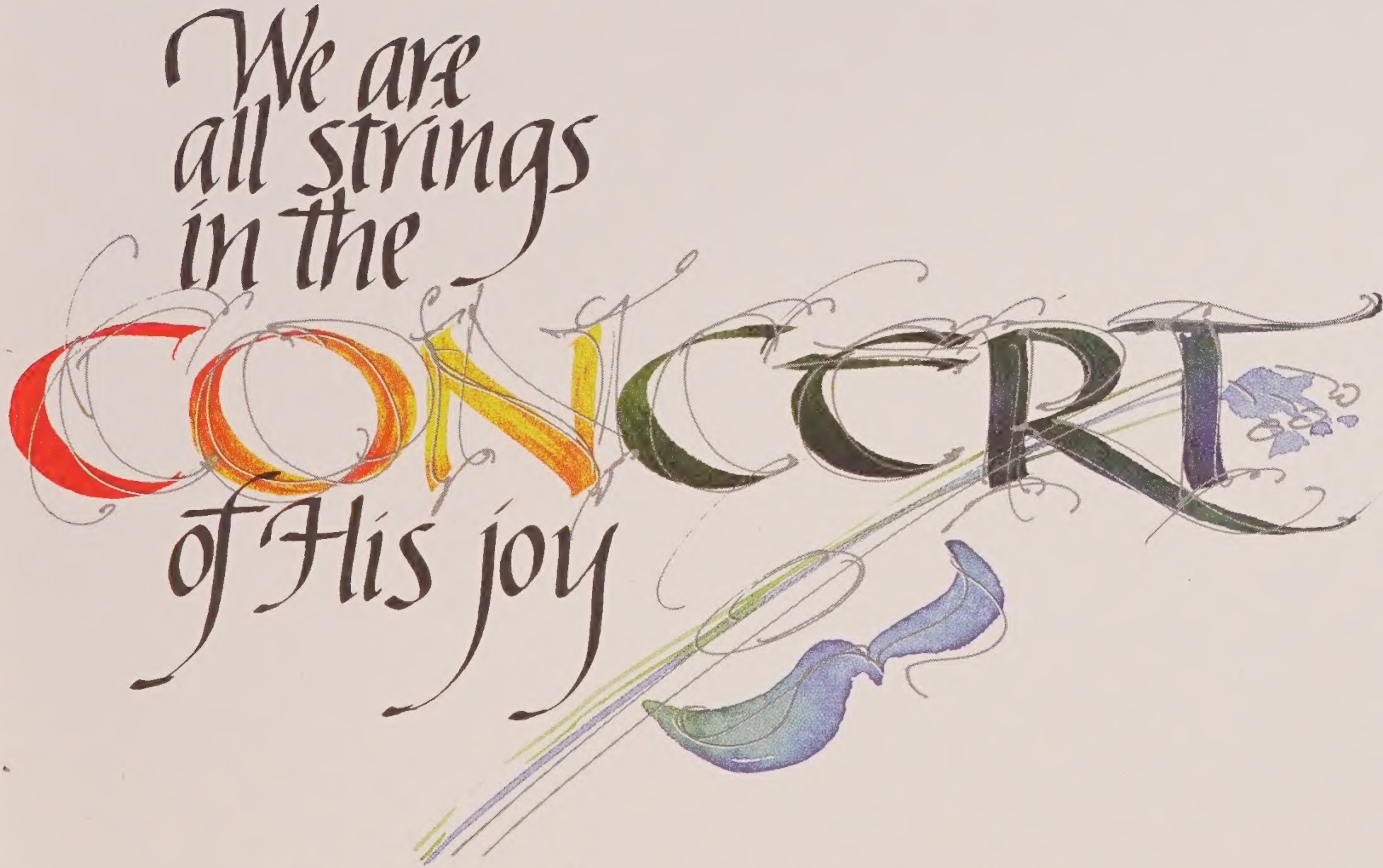

J A K O B B O E H M E

MAY YOUR BIRTHDAY
BE FILLED WITH MUSIC AND MIRTH

The joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10

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Faithful, We Follow

a litany based on the historic Introit for THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

"Remember Me, O Lord"

Melody ..... L.M.

"Come, follow me," the Savior said;
"Thus my disciples prove to be."
Steadfast to Calvary he led,
For he recalls our misery.

Remember, O Lord, your kindness and your constant love, which you have shown from long ago. (Psalm 25:6)

Where guilt is great and sin abounds,
There God's abundant grace is poured,
And fervent prayer from saints resounds:
"In love remember me, O Lord."

"Yet even now," says the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning, and rend your hearts, and not your garments." (Joel 2:12-13)

For all my sins Christ did atone,
That I might live eternally.
Now leave me not, my God, alone;
In steadfast love remember me!

The Lord remembers us and blesses us. He will bless all who fear him, the great and the small alike. (Psalm 115:12-13)

Faithful, we follow day by day;
Steadfast, we serve with one accord;
Fervent we join our hearts to pray:
"In love remember me, O Lord."

Daily Bible Readings
For The Second Week In Lent
"Remember Me, O Lord"

Sunday ..... Luke 23:39-43
Monday ..... Genesis 9:12-16
Tuesday ..... Luke 1:46-55
Wednesday ..... Hebrews 2:6-9
Thursday ..... Luke 12:6-8
Friday ..... Deuteronomy 4:31-35
Saturday ..... Isaiah 49:15-16

"Faithful, We Follow" Lenten Litanies are written by Arden W. Mead. They are published in six parts by **Creative Communications for the Parish**, 10300 Watson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63127. Phone: 1-800-325-9414. Art by Sally Beck. Copyright © 1997. Printed in the U.S.A.

THE SEASON OF LENT

is the Church's "springtime." Out of the darkness of sin's winter emerges a people—the Church—reborn through baptism into their Lord's death and resurrection from the grave.

Today Lent calls us to look back on the impact of our baptism on our lives. How are we doing, we who have died to sin and come alive to a new life in Christ? In repentance we ask our Lord to clear our lives of sin and renew a right spirit within us.

Lent

What season—observed since 200 A.D. and running from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday—is named for the time of year when the days begin to **lengthen**?

What 40 days precede the Holy Week observance of Jesus' suffering and death for us?

Which season of the Church Year focuses on **giving—giving up sin-driven behavior, giving more generously of ourselves, giving over our lives to our Lord—as he gave himself for us?**

40 days

How long was Jesus' "desert period" when he determined to live his life his Father's way, in spite of Satan's tempting offers?

How long did early Christian converts prepare to enter the Christian community through life-changing baptism on Easter eve?

How long do Christians today observe Lent as a time for self-examination and repentance, personal housecleaning and commitment to the new life in Christ entered at baptism?

Ash Wednesday

This day, traced back to 600 A.D., marked the start of the Christian Lenten season. Many worshipers receive a cross of ashes on the forehead as a sign of humility and repentance on this day.

"A Lenten smudge on the brow is a reality check to bring us back to earth in the presence of God. The grim but honest ashes are a solemn reminder of our limits and our Lord's call for his people's repentance."

THE COLORS OF LENT are:

violet which signals repentance;
black on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday;
white on Easter for joyous celebration.

Paschal

A word taken from **pascha** for the Jewish festival of **Passover**; (1) refers to Jesus as the paschal Lamb sacrificed for the sins of the world; (2) in a larger sense, refers to the whole season from Ash Wednesday to Pentecost.

The paschal season reminds us of our own **passover** and **exodus** from death to life through baptism.

Holy Week

A name given to the days immediately concluding the season of Lent, leading to Easter Day. It may include the following days and worship activities:

Palm or Passion Sunday
(palms and processions)

Maundy Thursday
(foot washing & Lord's Supper)

Good Friday
(meditations on the suffering and death of Jesus)

Saturday Easter Vigil
(candlelight, baptism, Lord's Supper)

Easter

The Day: Easter is the earliest Christian festival, celebrating Jesus' resurrection from the grave in triumph over sin and death. The name is first mentioned in 130 A.D.

The Season: Easter lasts 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost.

"The Easter season is the honeymoon of our union with God...time to explore the meaning of our new life...days for discovering how the mystery of salvation now becomes part of our daily lives."

"The paschal season does not exist in books or on calendars. It lives only in people. It is not art or therapy but a real-life struggle with the evil within and without that works against the way we have chosen—the life into which we have been baptized."

THE SUNDAY SCRIPTURE LESSONS

for Lent revisit the ancient covenant agreement made by the Lord with his people. The covenant includes us today who believe because of the sacrifice for the sin of the world made by the Lord's suffering servant, his Son.

Week by week we will hear:

- The Lord's eternal covenant means that nothing shall separate us, who are baptized into his Son's death and resurrection, from him.
- This covenant is a blessing prepared for those who are righteous through faith in the promises of God.
- Life in this covenant involves obedience to God's Law from our hearts and respect for his presence in our everyday lives.
- The Lord of the covenant shows us his grace by bringing us from darkness and despair into the light of Christ.
- Jesus, the Father's obedient Son, is the offering that makes the new covenant and thereby saves us.

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GOD'S LOVE *breaks* THROUGH

A SERIES OF SPECIAL SERVICES FOR LENT

GOD'S LOVE *breaks* THROUGH

"God uses for his glory those people and things that are most perfectly broken." The sermons in this six-part Lenten series take *brokenness* seriously—both the kinds of brokenness in which human beings find themselves because of sin, and the kind of brokenness which God requires for true repentance. Week by week be assured that

GOD'S LOVE *breaks* THROUGH

- **When Hearts Are Broken Tearfully, God's Love Breaks Through**—based on Ash Wednesday's traditional Psalm 51.
- **When Christian Love and Care Break Forth, God's Love Breaks Through**—as depicted graphically in a bottle of costly ointment broken in Jesus' honor.
- **When Pride Is Shattered Shamefully, God's Love Breaks Through**—as was the case with Peter when the rooster crowed.
- **When Human Strength Cannot Avail, God's Love Breaks Through**—as the disciples demonstrated at Gethsemane.
- **When Other Answers Fail and Fall, God's Love Breaks Through**—as did those attempted by Pontius Pilate and Judas.
- **Where Lives Are Broken Helplessly, God's Love Breaks Through**—as with the two thieves on their crosses.

God's Love Breaks Through was written by Randy Walquist; edited with orders of service by Arden W. Mead; creedal hymn by Peter J. Mead; art by Sally Beck. Published by Creative Communications for the Parish, 10300 Watson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63127. Copyright ©1995. Printed in the U.S.A.

The Hills of Lent

Mountain-Top Experiences on the Pilgrimage of Faith

The Hills of Lent

Mountain-Top Experiences on the Pilgrimage of Faith

Join us each week during the sacred season of Lent on a dramatically realistic journey to six biblical mountain tops:

+ At **Mount Moriah** faith is tested and strengthened with the assurance that "The Lord will provide Himself a lamb."

+ At **Mount Sinai** God our Savior continues to direct us on our journey to the Promised Land.

+ At **Mount Carmel** faith and faithfulness are called for, even in the face of opposition.

+ At **Mount Zion** God is offered the worship and praise He so richly deserves.

+ At **Mount Olivet** God's children are assured that His good will for us is surely being done.

+ At **Mount Calvary** — toward which all these other mountains point — we view "God's own sacrifice complete."

"Lift up your eyes to the hills" each week as you join God's faithful people on our annual pilgrimage to the foot of the Cross.

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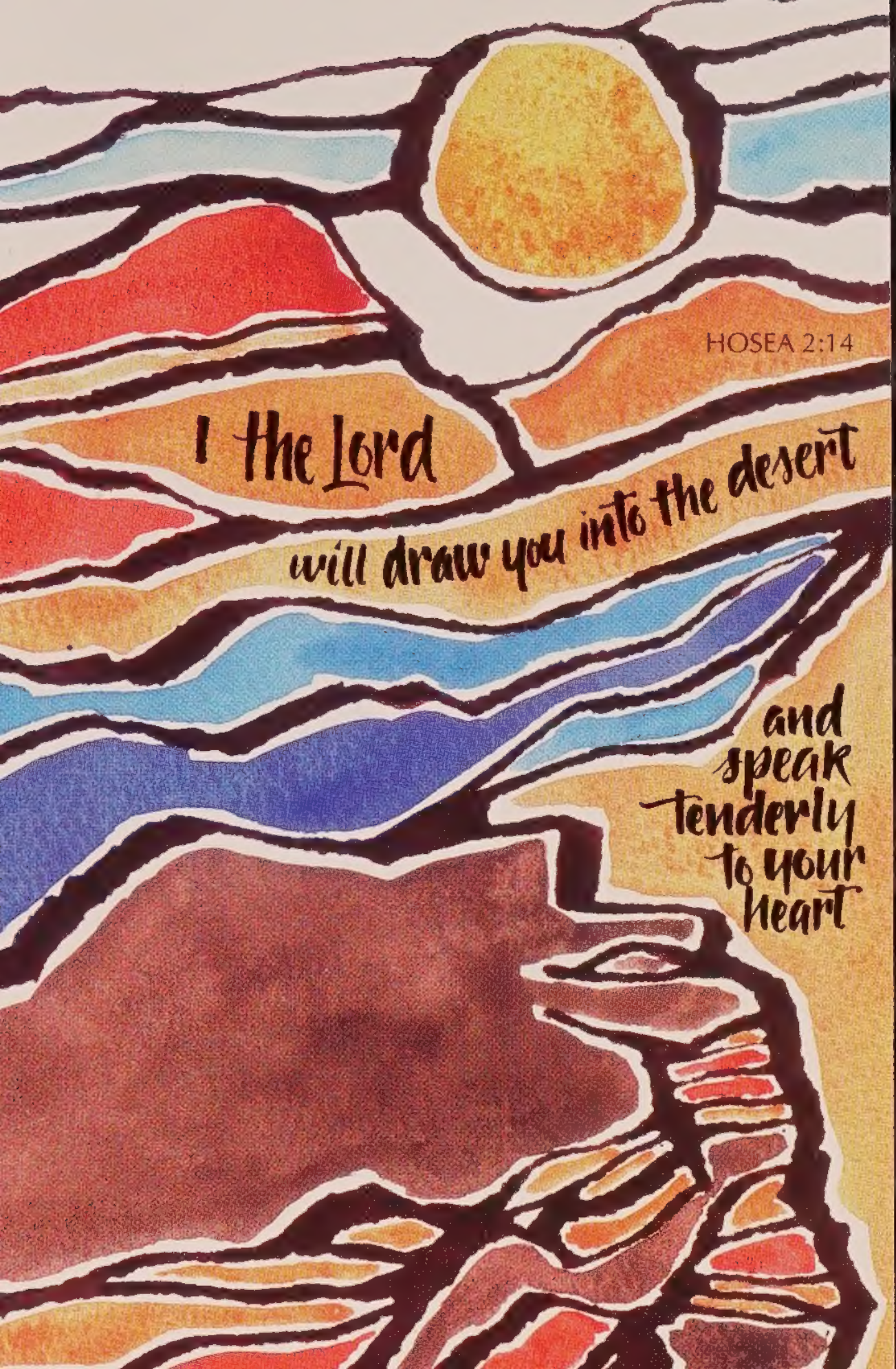
HOSEA 2:14
I the Lord
will draw you into the desert
and speak tenderly to your heart

A Prayer for Lent

MERCIFUL GOD, in the darkness of our sin and the confusion of our world, we seek to renew our faith in you this Lent. In the face of death and suffering, we long to hope in your promise of everlasting life. In times of loneliness and alienation, we desire the consolation of your undying love. Touch our hearts this Lent that through the mystery of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection, we may come to live faithfully in your Kingdom, both now and forever. Amen.

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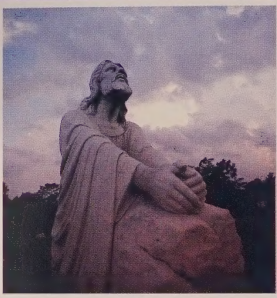

The Savior Says "I AM"

Daily Bible Readings for Lent 1997

"Tell them that **I AM** has sent you," the Lord instructed Moses at the burning bush. God's people remembered. Although they dared not speak God's name, they knew the Lord as the One Who Is, the one who had said, "I AM."

How significant, therefore, that Jesus Christ should use that very term so often in speaking of himself and describing his ministry. In the "I AM" sayings of Jesus, our Lord's believers continue to hear echoes of the burning bush.

It is **that** Lord who went the way of the cross for our salvation—**that** Lord whom we follow day by day throughout the weeks of Lent! What wondrous love! What high regard! What deep humility!

Follow faithfully. And should you wonder, on the way, "Who is leading me?" ...

The Savior Says, "I AM!"

The Savior Says "I AM"

Daily Bible Readings for Lent 1997

"I Am the Way, the Truth, the Life"

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 12
John 14:1-6 ..... Going to prepare a place

Thursday, Feb. 13
Mark 8:31-34 ..... Take up your cross and follow

Friday, Feb. 14
John 8:31-32 ..... The truth that frees

Saturday, Feb. 15
John 10:7-10 ..... Abundant life in Christ

"I Am the Door"

Monday, Feb. 17
Genesis 28:10-17 ..... Jacob's ladder, heaven's gate

Tuesday, Feb. 18
Luke 23:39-45 ..... The curtain opened

Wednesday, Feb. 19
Hebrews 9:11-12 ..... Christ entered the holy place

Thursday, Feb. 20
Luke 13:22-30 ..... The narrow door to life

Friday, Feb. 21
Revelation 3:20-21 ..... Christ stands and knocks

Saturday, Feb. 22
John 10:7-9 ..... A safe gate for the sheep

"I Am the Light of the World"

Monday, Feb. 24
Genesis 1:1-5 ..... "Let there be light!"

Tuesday, Feb. 25
2 Corinthians 4:4-6 ..... The glory seen in Christ

Wednesday, Feb. 26
1 John 1:5-10 ..... Walk in the light

Thursday, Feb. 27
John 3:19-21 ..... Light and truth

Friday, Feb. 28
Ephesians 5:8-14 ..... Walking as children of light

Saturday, March 1
Matthew 5:14-16 ..... Let your light shine

"I Am the Bread of Life"

Monday, March 3
Exodus 16:13-18 ..... Manna in the wilderness

Tuesday, March 4
John 6:5-13 ..... Jesus feeds the multitudes

Wednesday, March 5
John 6:48-50 ..... Bread from heaven

Thursday, March 6
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ..... The Lord's Supper

Friday, March 7
John 6:35-40 ..... Bread that gives life

Saturday, March 8
Psalm 145:15-19 ..... The Lord provides

"I Am the Vine"

Monday, March 10
Isaiah 5:1-7 ..... A disappointing vineyard

Tuesday, March 11
John 15:1-10 ..... Staying with the true vine

Wednesday, March 12
Matthew 20:1-16 ..... Workers in the vineyard

Thursday, March 13
Matthew 21:28-32 ..... Obedience in action

Friday, March 14
Matthew 21:33-41 ..... Whose vineyard is it?

Saturday, March 15
Isaiah 25:6-9 ..... The finest wine

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

Monday, March 17
John 11:20-27 ..... Believe and live

Tuesday, March 18
John 11:32-44 ..... The raising of Lazarus

Wednesday, March 19
Acts 2:22-28 ..... God's Son freed from death

Thursday, March 20
Philippians 2:5-11 ..... From humiliation to glory

Friday, March 21
Mark 5:35-43 ..... The joy of resurrection

Saturday, March 22
John 3:13-16 ..... Eternal life for all believers

"I Am the Good Shepherd"

Monday, March 24
Psalm 23:1-6 ..... The Lord is my Shepherd

Tuesday, March 25
John 10:11-16 ..... A life laid down for sheep

Wednesday, March 26
Isaiah 53:4-7 ..... Like a lamb to the slaughter

Holy Thursday, March 27
Luke 15:1-7 ..... Seeking the lost sheep

Good Friday, March 28
Ezekiel 34:7-16 ..... God will be the Shepherd

Saturday, March 29
John 10:27-30 ..... "My sheep hear my voice"

"I Am with You Always!"

Easter Sunday, March 30
Matthew 28:16-20 ..... Resurrection power

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BF-9

CALLED TOGETHER

Family Devotions and Activities for Lent

Called Together

Family Devotions and Activities for Lent

Families are the places we first share our faith, the places where forgiveness is essential: forgiveness between spouses, between parents and children, and between brothers and sisters. Families are places we share faith, hope and love, places where we experience Christ's saving presence.

Families are where we encounter Christ in one another as we love each other. Families, therefore, are places where we are called to *be* Christ for one another. In practical terms, this means loving and being loved, forgiving and being forgiven, serving and being served.

Lent is a time to reflect, to think about, how we are doing, both individually and as a family. Are we loving, forgiving and serving one another as Christ would? As we think about this prayerfully, we grow more able to be the family that God wants us to be.

This booklet offers something of a do-it-yourself approach. For Ash Wednesday and each week of Lent thereafter, a family prayer is suggested as well as some points for discussion and action. During Holy Week, special attention is given to the Paschal Triduum: the three days that commemorate Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. Families that shape their own Lenten practice find it rewarding without being burdensome. Some families may wish to do many or all of the suggested activities; some may pray together each week; some may simply join hands each morning to pray the Lord's Prayer.

Remember, God is in your midst as you engage the work of his Son this Lent. Through your love and care for one another, you will discover not only where you need to grow, but also how blessed you already are.

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With All Your Heart

Opening Prayer (Parent)

Almighty God, you have called us by our baptism to be Christ for one another and for the world. As a family and as part of your people, the Church, we pray that this Lent may draw us closer to you and to one another. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus.

Introduction to Scripture (Child)

The prophet Joel told all the people to pray to God for mercy.

Scripture (Parent)

The Lord said: It isn't too late. You can still return to me with all your heart. Start crying and mourning! Go without eating. Don't rip your clothes to show your sorrow. Instead, turn back to me with broken hearts. I am merciful, kind, and caring. I don't easily lose my temper, and I don't like to punish. I am the Lord your God. Perhaps I will change my mind and treat you with mercy. Then you will be blessed with enough grain and wine for offering sacrifices to me.

Sound the trumpet on Zion! Call the people together. Show your sorrow by going without food. Make sure that everyone is fit to worship me. Bring adults, children, babies, and even bring newlyweds from their festivities. *Joel 2:12-16*

Meditation (Parent)

The prophet Joel called upon all the people to gather and say they were sorry for turning away from God. Lent is a time to remember that we have been baptized in Christ and are destined to share his life both now and throughout eternity. Lent is also a time for change, for letting God shape our lives so that we can be more and more like Jesus. What are some ways our family lives like Jesus did? What are some ways we could be more like Jesus?

(pause for sharing)

We can all do a little better this Lent to remember how blessed we are to have one another in our family. In gratitude for each other, let us join hands and pray, "Our Father . . ."

Closing Prayer (Child)

You are kind, God! Please have pity on me. You are always merciful! Please wipe away my sins. *Psalm 51:1*

For the rest of Lent . . .

Fasting—When tempted by the devil to turn stones into bread (Matthew 4:3), Jesus reminded him that "No one can live only on food. People need every word that God has spoken." Fasting is a prayerful gesture that reminds us how much we need God. It is also a way of saying we are sorry for the times we have failed to put God first. Fasting is *not* a way to earn God's mercy nor should we try to prove our holiness to ourselves or others by how much we fast. Instead, it is a simple way of directing our attention to God during this season. A very simple form of fasting involves giving up a favorite food during Lent. As we do without something that we like, our attention is drawn to the purpose behind fasting: being aware that God is more important than anything or any physical pleasure.

Almsgiving—Find a jar or bowl in which family members can place money for distribution to the poor during Lent. If you are fasting from some treat that you usually pay for, you might want to put the money in the jar instead. You can save up the money each week until Sunday or wait until Lent is over and give it away then.

Prayer—Mealtime prayer during Lent is a good opportunity to express our gratitude for the goodness of the food we have to eat and the generosity of all those who had a hand in preparing the food. Although fasting is a common Lenten practice, it is also important to enjoy and be thankful for the food we have.

God's News Is Good News

Opening Prayer (Parent)

Loving God, you have shown us the meaning of forgiveness by sending your Son to save us from sin and death. Help us this first week of Lent to forgive one another from the heart.

Introduction to Scripture (Child)

Jesus came to tell us that God forgives us when we do wrong and loves us no matter what.

Scripture (Parent)

Right away God's Spirit made Jesus go into the desert. He stayed there for forty days while Satan tested him. Jesus was with the wild animals, but angels took care of him.

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee and told the good news that comes from God. He said, "The time has come! God's kingdom will soon be here! Turn back to God and believe the good news!" *Mark 1:12-15*

Meditation (Parent)

Jesus came with a message for all of us, but he did more than just teach and preach. He showed us what he meant: he forgave, he healed, and finally he suffered and died to show God's love for us. In this first week of Lent, we have a special opportunity to forgive one another and seek forgiveness for ourselves. In that way, we will be living out the Good News in our own lives. Let's think for a moment about what we need to forgive and be forgiven for.

(pause in silence)

As we seek forgiving hearts this Lent, we join our hands to pray as Jesus taught us: "Our Father . . ."

Closing Prayer (Child)

Lord God, you keep me safe, and I always trust you. *Psalm 25:5*

For the Week . . .
Prayer—At a time when the family can gather for prayer each day, join hands to pray the Lord's Prayer, but this time do it a little differently. When you get to these words, "Forgive us our trespasses," pause for a moment so that everyone can bring to mind whatever he or she wishes to be forgiven for. Then begin to pray again, pausing after ". . . as we forgive those who trespass against us" to recall those whom we need to forgive. This is a simple way to put a face on our forgiveness and to remind ourselves what we need forgiveness for.

Second Week of Lent

God Is On Our Side

Opening Prayer (Parent)

Almighty and eternal God, you have chosen us to be your people and to bring us to everlasting life. Strengthen our faith that we may believe in your promises and turn to you in every difficulty.

Introduction to Scripture (Child)

St. Paul tells us that no matter what happens, God will be with us.

Scripture (Parent)

> If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else? If God says his chosen ones are acceptable to him, can anyone bring charges against them? Or can anyone condemn them? No indeed! Christ died and was raised to life, and now he is at God's right hand, speaking to him for us.
>
> *Romans 8:31-34*

Meditation (Parent)

When we were baptized, we became children of God for all time. Like a loving Father, God cares for us and shows us how we are to live. As disciples of Jesus, we follow God's ways first by believing in Jesus, in what he said and what he did. During the second week of Lent, we remember that we are learning to love one another as Christ has loved us. What are some of the ways that we as a family do that? What are some ways we can do that even better?

(pause for sharing)

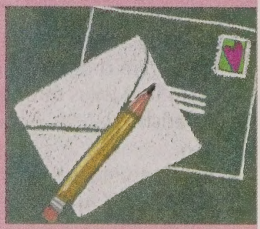
Confident that God is for us this Lent, we join our hands and pray: "Our Father . . ."

Closing Prayer (Child)

I will offer a sacrifice to you, to show how grateful I am, and I will pray. *Psalm 116:17*

For the Week . . .

Jesus healed the sick and went out of his way to give comfort to people who were suffering. When we give food or money to the poor, we are following Jesus. But we can reach out to needy people in other ways, too. Those who are sick or unable to leave their home would appreciate a visit, a letter or a greeting card. Some students who are having trouble with their school work might like a little tutoring. Or maybe a local food pantry needs an extra pair of helping hands. This week, look for opportunities to help people as Jesus might have.



Third Week of Lent

Together With God's People

Opening Prayer (Parent)

Lord God, you have brought us together as a family and as a part of your people who give you praise. We thank you for one another and for your Church here on earth. Help us all to follow you more faithfully.

Introduction to Scripture (Child)

Jesus wanted God's house to be a place of prayer, not a marketplace.

Scripture (Parent)

Not long before the Jewish festival of Passover, Jesus went to Jerusalem. There he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves in the temple. He also saw moneychangers sitting at their tables. So he took some rope and made a whip. Then he chased everyone out of the temple, together with their sheep and cattle. He turned over the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins.

Jesus said to the people who had been selling doves, "Get those doves out of here! Don't make my Father's house a marketplace!" The disciples then remembered that the Scriptures say, "My love for your house burns in me like a fire."

John 2:13-17

Meditation (Parent)

The church is not just a place where we gather to worship God, but is also a group of people who believe in God's Word and who are helping one another to live faithfully. Jesus demanded that the temple be a place of prayer and reverence for God. Each Sunday, Christians go to church in order to worship together. How does going to church help us to follow Jesus throughout the week? How can we help the people of our parish?

(pause for sharing)

In thanksgiving to God for the gift of a faithful church, we join our hands as we pray: "Our Father . . ."

Closing Prayer (Child)

The Lord's instruction is right; it makes our hearts glad. *Psalm 19:8*

For the rest of the week . . .

Praying according to this suggestion may mean that everyone has to get up five minutes earlier in the morning: gather the family at the start of the day and begin with these words from Psalm 51: "Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise." Then, each person in turn will ask God for a particular blessing for the day. Be specific: help with an exam, insight into a particular problem, a peaceful drive into town, etc. Then close with this simple prayer; "Gracious God, be with us all the day long, keep us faithful to the gospel and bring us safely home."

A Simple Gift

Opening Prayer (Parent)

God of all the ages, you created us out of love and love alone. May we share that love as a family and learn to love you more this Lent.

Introduction to Scripture (Child)

God gave us Jesus to bring us to life and show us how to love one another.

Scripture (Parent)

God was merciful! We were dead because of our sins, but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Christ, and God's wonderful kindness is what saves you. God raised us from death to life with Christ Jesus, and he has given us a place beside Christ in heaven. God did this so that in the future world he could show us how truly good and kind he is to us because of what Christ Jesus has done. You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve. This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own. It isn't something you have earned, so there is nothing you can brag about. God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. That's why he sent Christ to make us what we are. *Ephesians 2:4-10*

Meditation (Parent)

St. Paul reminds us that everything that is good in our lives is a gift from God. In the same way, our family is blessed by one another in ways that we have done nothing to earn. Think about some of the ways that we have been blessed and cared for.

(pause for sharing)

Loving God, in gratitude for one another, we join our hands as we pray: "Our Father . . ."

Closing Prayer (Child)

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent him to save them! *John 3:17*

For the rest of the week . . .

Fasting, no matter how hard or how long we do it, cannot earn us God's love—that's ours for the taking! But fasting can be a good way

to pray with your whole body by saying, "I need God most of all."

Did you know that you can fast from things besides food and drink? Here are some possibilities to try this week. Fast from television and/or video games. Fast from staying in bed after the alarm goes off in the morning. Fast from gossiping or holding a grudge. These kinds of fasts will give you a little extra time for helping out around the house, reading the Bible, or spending time with the people you love.

However you fast this week, try to do it out of love for God and for other people.

Fifth Week of Lent

Some Very Good News

Opening Prayer (Parent)

Lord God, your ways are much greater than our own and your thoughts are beyond our understanding. You ask that we trust you, even in the face of hard realities like suffering and death. May we learn during these last weeks of Lent to place all our trust in you.

Introduction to Scripture (Child)

Jesus trusted his Father, and he teaches us to do the same.

Scripture (Parent)

Jesus said: "The time has come for the Son of Man to be given his glory. I tell you for certain that a grain of wheat that falls on the ground will never be more than one grain unless it dies. But if it dies, it will produce lots of wheat. If you love your life, you will lose it. If you give it up in this world, you will be given eternal life. If you serve me, you must go with me. My servants will be with me wherever I am. If you serve me, my Father will honor you." *John 12:23-26*

Meditation (Parent)

Some seeds look like slivers of wood, others like small stones, but none look to be full of life. Every planting is an act of faith, every harvest a proof of God's goodness. Jesus told us to have faith, even in the face of

death, and then he practiced what he preached on Calvary. Each of us must die someday, but each day we have to "give up our life" in following Jesus. What kind of sacrifices do we have to make to love, forgive and serve one another?

(pause for sharing)

Believing in a life that is more powerful than death, we join our hands as we pray: "Our Father . . ."

Closing Prayer (Child)

God, you are always merciful! Please wipe away my sins.

Psalm 51:1

For the rest of the week . . .

When you plant a seed, you really can't be sure what is going to happen.Acts of kindness can be like that—you really don't know how a person is going to respond. Sometimes prayer is like that, too, especially when we pray for our enemies. Jesus told us to do that, but he never said what would happen when we did. This week, look for ways to do a favor for someone who won't pay you back. Take time to pray for those you look upon as your enemies. As a sign of our willingness to believe even when we cannot see the results right away, you may want to plant a seed near the inside edge of a small glass, water it carefully and watch happens in the days to come.

Holy Week

The Story Of Salvation

Opening Prayer (Parent)

Merciful God, the story of your Son's suffering, death and resurrection is a story of your abundant love for us. Help us this week to listen well to this powerful story that we might grow in love for you.

Introduction to Scripture (Child)

Jesus knew it would be hard for some people to believe in him, but he died to bring life to all of us.

Scripture (Parent)

Jesus said to his disciples, "All of you will reject me, as the Scriptures say, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised to life, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

Peter spoke up, "Even if all the others reject you, I never will!"

Jesus replied, "This very night before a rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you don't know me."

But Peter was so sure of himself that he said, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never say that I don't know you!" All the others said the same thing.

Mark 14:27-31

Meditation (Parent)

We know what happened next: Jesus' friends ran away when he was arrested. Jesus knew they would do that, and he knows that sometimes we, too, will act like we don't know who he is. Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? Do you think you could still give your life for that person as Jesus did?

(pause for sharing)

We join our hands as we pray: "Our Father . . ."

Closing Prayer (Child)

Don't stay far away, Lord! My strength comes from you, so hurry and help. *Psalm 22:19*

For Holy Week . . .

This week we remember the hardest and the most wonderful part of the story of Jesus. First, the hardest part: Jesus is betrayed, arrested and put to death. Then, the most wonderful part: just when it looked like all had been lost, he was raised from the dead!

But that's getting ahead of the story—a story that is worth reading slowly and prayerfully. This is a good week for the family to gather and read, reflect and pray about the story of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. If you follow St. Mark's Gospel, here is one schedule for the reading:

Monday:	Mark 14:1-26
Tuesday:	Mark 14:27-52
Wednesday:	Mark 14:53-72
Thursday:	Mark 15:1-21
Good Friday:	Mark 15:22-47
Saturday:	Mark 16:1-4

Three Special Days

The period from the evening of Holy or Maundy Thursday until the evening of Easter Sunday is a special time in which we recall the central events of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. This period of three days, sometimes called by the Latin word "triduum" which means three days, provides a special opportunity to pray as a family and as a church. On the following pages are devotions for Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening. Each devotion allows for a special way to commemorate this important day.

Holy or Maundy Thursday

A New Commandment

Some families like to wash one another's feet on Maundy Thursday, named for the "mandatum" or commandment Christ gave us to love one another. To do this, you will need a towel and a basin filled with lukewarm water. The washing of the feet will take place during the "pause for reflection" time in the devotion.

Opening Prayer (Parent)

Lord God, Jesus gave us an example of how we are to love one another. Help us to understand and appreciate all that he did for us.

Introduction to Scripture (Child)

Jesus showed us how to love and serve each other.

Scripture (Parent)

Jesus knew that he had come from God and would go back to God. He also knew that the Father had given him complete power. So during the meal Jesus got up, removed his outer garment, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He put some water into a large bowl. Then he began washing his disciples' feet and drying them with the towel he was wearing.

After Jesus had washed his disciples' feet and had put his outer garment back on, he sat

down again. Then he said, "Do you understand what I have done? You call me teacher and Lord, and you should, because that is who I am. And if your Lord and teacher has washed your feet, you should do the same for each other. I have set the example, and you should do for each other exactly what I have done for you." *John 13:3-5, 12-15*

Meditation (Parent)

Jesus acted like a servant when he washed the disciples' feet, and then he told us to provide loving service for one another. Foot-washing is only one kind of service we can do for each other. What are some of the other important ways we can be of service in the family? in the parish? in the world?

(pause for sharing and for a ritual of foot-washing)

Seeking to obey God in all things, we join our hands and pray: "Our Father . . ."

Closing Prayer (Child)

I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. *John 13:34*

Good Friday

Jesus Gave Us Everything

To reflect in a special way on Good Friday, use some symbolic representation of Christ's cross: a crucifix, a nail, a piece of wood or some other physical representation. Simply pass the symbol from one to another as you recall Jesus' passion and death.

Opening Prayer (Parent)

Lord Jesus, you were tortured and put to death to show your love for us. As we recall the mystery of our redemption, we ask that you send your Holy Spirit to help us understand and appreciate all that you did and all that you do for us.

Introduction to Scripture (Child)

Jesus died so that all people might live forever.

Scripture (Parent)

He was painfully abused, but he did not complain. He was silent like a lamb being led to the butcher, as quiet as a sheep

having its wool cut off. He was condemned without a fair trial. Who could have imagined what would happen to him? His life was taken away because of the sinful things my people had done. He wasn't dishonest or violent, but he was buried in a tomb of cruel and rich people.

The Lord decided his servant would suffer as a sacrifice to take away the sin and guilt of others. Now the servant will live to see his own descendants. He did everything the Lord had planned.

Isaiah 53:7-10

Meditation (Parent)

The cross is the symbol of Jesus' suffering and death, his gift of redemption to us. The cross is also a symbol of the life that comes to us, even though we will suffer and die ourselves. The cross is the symbol of God's love for us, a love that is stronger than sin and death. Let us now silently give thanks to Jesus for all he suffered for us.

(pause for sharing)

In gratitude and praise, we join our hands as we pray: "Our Father . . ."

Closing Prayer (Child)

I trust in you, Lord, and I claim you as my God. *Psalm 31:14*

Celebrate New Life

As you reflect on baptism, you may wish to display mementos of family baptisms or simply have a bowl of water available for each person to dip his or her hand into during the time for reflection.

Opening Prayer (Parent)

Good and gracious God, you saved us though we were sinners. Help us to accept the life of Christ that you offered us in baptism.

Introduction to Scripture (Child)

Jesus brought us new life in him.

Scripture (Parent)

Don't you know that all who share in Christ Jesus by being baptized also share in his death? When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ. We were baptized, so that we would live by a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.

As surely as we died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him. We know that death no longer has any power over Christ. He died and was raised to life, never again to die. When Christ died, he died once and for all. But now he is alive, and he lives only for God. In the same way, you must think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God. *Romans 6:3-4, 8-11*

Meditation (Parent)

Sin and death are very real things. We know that from our own lives and from the world around us. But just as real as sin and death is the life of Christ. In fact, since Jesus is living right now, sin and death can no longer hold us. This is the Good News of salvation. This is why we have been baptized in Jesus' name. This is why we celebrate Easter each year: to remember just how much we have been given by God. Let's take a few minutes to remember our baptism and to give thanks for it.

(pause for sharing)

Born to new life in Christ, we join hands as we pray: "Our Father . . ."

Closing Prayer (Child)

Tell the Lord how thankful you are, because he is kind and always merciful. *Psalm 118:1*

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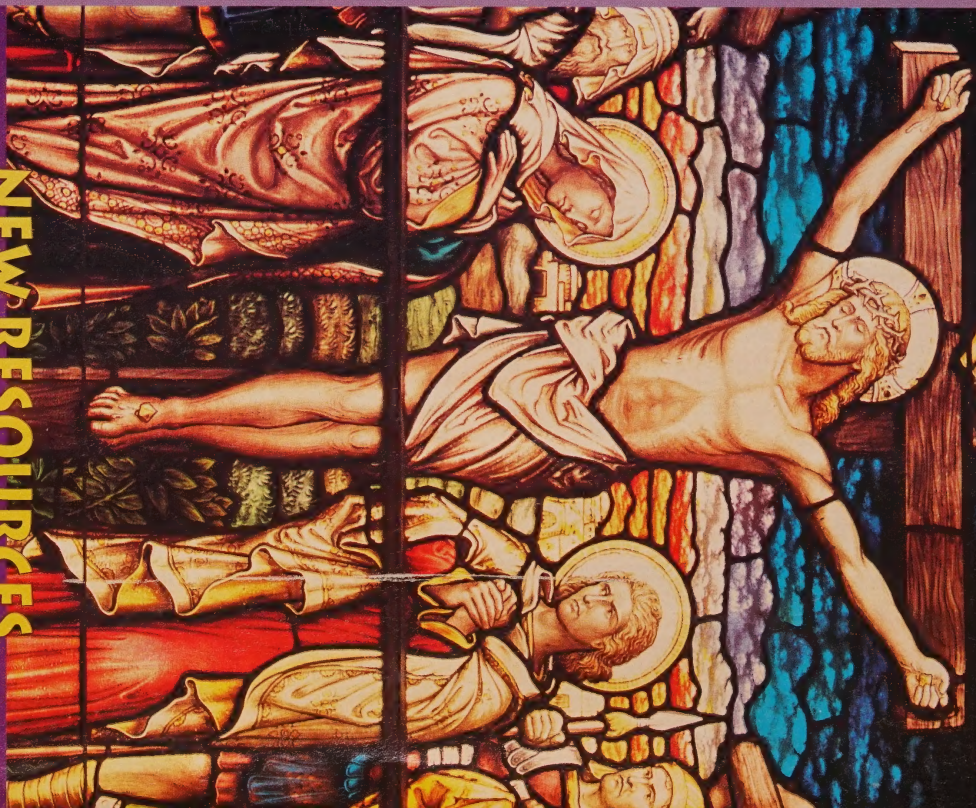

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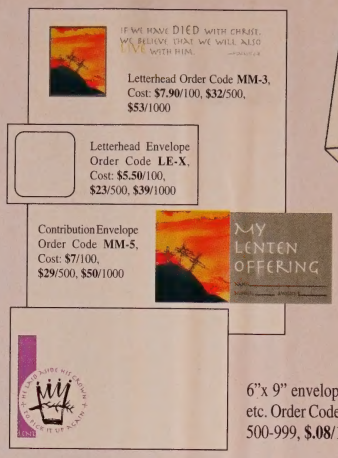
LENTEN DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

NEW THIS YEAR!

CHRIST'S JOURNEY AND YOURS

Lenten Devotions by Martin E. Marty

The Gospel of Mark—brisk, dramatic, shocking—serves as the stage for these personal devotions from the pen of world-renowned scholar, Martin Marty. In down-to-earth language, Dr. Marty delves into the Gospel, following Jesus from his baptism through his passion and death ... and on to his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday. Along the way, Christ's journey becomes OUR journey—a journey of understanding, faith, and salvation. Written with honesty and simple depth, Marty draws Jesus into our world even as we are drawn into this most important of stories—a story as vital today as it was nearly two thousand years ago. Traveling with Jesus—not just during the events of Holy Week, but throughout his entire ministry—is a meaningful endeavor for the season of Lent. Each day, a passage from the book of Mark and an alternate reading set the stage. A devotion follows. Fresh, insightful, and disarmingly simple, Martin Marty truly writes for the person in the pew! Order Code **MM-1**, Cost: **$.59**/1-199, **$.56**/200-499, **$.52**/500-999, **$.49**/1000+



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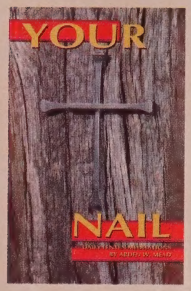
A colorful Table Tent Calendar is available as a visual reminder of the daily Lenten discipline one has undertaken. Order Code **MM-2**, Cost: **$.19**/1-499, **$.17**/500-999, **$.15**/1000+

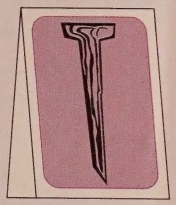
6"x 9" envelope for use with church mailings, etc. Order Code **MM-4**, Cost: **$.10**/1-499, **$.09**/500-999, **$.08**/1000+



YOUR NAIL

More than 1,500,000 copies of this devotional classic have been distributed since it was first issued 19 years ago!

Beginning with Ash Wednesday and running through Easter Sunday, the daily devotions in this booklet invite readers to meditate on the meaning of Christ's suffering and death for their own lives. They are encouraged to use *a real nail* as a reminder and help for their meditation. Colossians 2:14-15, which includes the thought that *"God took all the charges that were against us and nailed them to the Cross,"* is the basic text from which all the devotions are derived. Order Code **YN-1** Cost: **$.59**/1-199, **$.56**/200-499, **$.52**/500-999, **$.49**/1000+



LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE!

A unique *Your Nail* **table tent** is also offered, die-cut with slots into which a *real nail* may be inserted. (**We do not provide the nails themselves.** We suggest something like a horseshoe nail as looking most "authentic.") Order Code, **YN-2** Cost: **$.17**/1-499, **$.16**/500-999, **$.15**/1000+

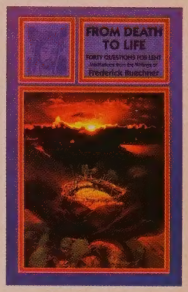
CALLED TO LIFE CALLED TO LOVE

Henri J.M. Nouwen

NEW THIS YEAR!

This 32-page collection of Lenten reflections is drawn from a new book of daily reflections written by Henri Nouwen in the months before his death in September 1996. Featured are 46 sparsely-stated but deeply personal insights into spirituality for which Nouwen has been acclaimed worldwide. The overall theme of these Lenten reflections is the awesomeness of God's love, which invites us to love in return. In an introduction written specifically for this booklet, Nouwen describes Lent as "the most important time of the year to nurture our inner life . . . and to discover the mystery of Christ within us." Each daily reflection begins with an appropriate Scripture quote and concludes with a brief prayer or prayer-starter question. Code: **HN-1**, Cost: **$.59,** 1-199; **$.56**, 200-499; **$.52**, 500-999; **$.49**, 1000+

FROM DEATH TO LIFE



Few writers can match Frederick Buechner's ability to articulate the Christian faith in a way that people of our time take to heart so readily. Now Buechner's best religious insights have been gathered into this Lenten devotional booklet entitled **From Death to Life: Forty Questions for Lent.** Creative Communications for the Parish has selected 40 brief readings from Buechner's many books. The selections make for compelling Lenten reflections on such themes as *Am I Really Trying to Love God? Do I Really Love Anyone Besides Myself? Do I Act As If I'll Never Die? Am I Willing to Repent?* Each daily devotion is accompanied by an appropriate Scripture text and a brief concluding prayer. Order Code **FB-1** Cost: **$.59**/1-199, **$.56**/200-499, **$.52**/500-999, **$.49**/1000+

PRAYER CARDS

Prayer Cards for Lent and for Easter feature different full-color images on one side and prayers on the other. Attractive and inexpensive, these cards are a good way to encourage Lenten observation and Easter celebration in your parish. Order Code: *(Foot Washing)* **PK-T;** *(Stained Glass Cross-Lent)* **PK-M;** *(Sunset Cross-Lent)* **PK-D;** *(Desert-Lent)* **PL-B;** *(Empty Tomb-Easter)* **PL-C.** Cost **$4.50**/50, **$7**/100, **$26**/500, **$40**/1000, **$70**/2000

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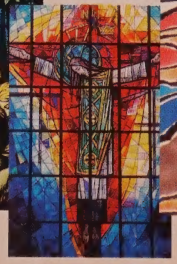

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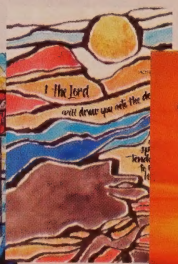

PL-B

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LENTEN PRAYER BOOKLETS

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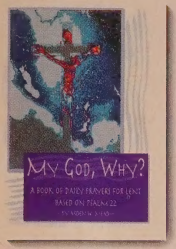


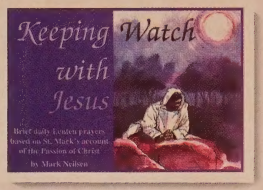
MY GOD, WHY?

A Book of Prayers for Lent Based on Psalm 22

Day by day, line by line, phrase by phrase, these brief prayers invite the reader to use the familiar words of "The Crucifixion Psalm"—the very psalm Jesus quoted from the cross—as a Lenten opportunity to join the Savior … and the ancient psalmist … and hosts of believers down through the centuries … in pouring out one's soul to God. The blessed conclusion: "Jesus was forsaken, so that I might never be!" Order Code **LG-8** Cost: **$.49**/1-499, **$.45**/500-999, **$.39**/1000+

KEEPING WATCH WITH JESUS

An old Lenten tradition urged Christians to spend a few minutes each day focusing on a scene from the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Keeping Watch With Jesus guides the reader's Lenten journey in that tradition. Each day a portion of Mark's passion account is presented along with brief commentary and a prayer. By the end of Lent, all of Mark's passion account will have been read and the Lenten journey enriched. Order Code **LG-2** Cost: **$.49**/1-499, **$.45**/500-999, **$.39**/1000+



SPECIAL LENTEN RESOURCES

NEW THIS YEAR!

LENTEN BULLETIN INSERT

This new insert explains important words and concepts for the observance of Lent—*Ash Wednesday, Lent, 40 Days, Paschal, Holy Week,* and *Easter*. Woven into brief paragraphs are the history, vocabulary and spiritual insight Christians bring to Lent. Easy to digest, this Lenten preparation calls us to *look back on the impact of our baptism on our lives*. Also included is a thematic review of the Sunday Scripture lessons (*the covenant agreement made by the Lord with his people*) to be read during Lent, 1997. Order Code **LS-M**, Cost: **$5.50**/50, **$9**/100, **$15**/200

NEW THIS YEAR!

HOLY WEEK BULLETIN INSERT

The custom of observing Holy Week may be unfamiliar to some new Christians and shopworn for others. **FOR US:What Holy Week is About** will provide a fresh guide to worshippers through this special week. Touched on are the use of *palms, Holy Communion, foot washing, Tre Ore, Tenebrae services* and details of *the Saturday Easter Vigil.* Educational, while personal and devotional in tone, the insert relates details of the historic events of Holy Week to our experience of it in special worship services today. Code **LS-N**, Cost: **$5.50**/50, **$9**/100, **$15**/200

Special Savings! Order the same quantity of *both inserts* and **save up to 25%**. Order Code **LS-S** Cost: **$8.25**/50; **$13.50**/100; **$22.50**/200

FOCUS ON THE CHURCH YEAR

If the Christian Church Year is a mystery to some of your members, they will find answers in this colorful bulletin insert. Brief and easy-to-understand, one side of this insert explains what the Church Year is and why Christians observe it—*"to learn the words and acts of God…to remember the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord…to relive these saving events…."* The other side pictures a full Church Year sequence of seasons (*Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost)* and their festival days, along with Christian seasonal symbols in color. Order Code **CY-I**, Cost: **$5.50**/50, **$9**/100, **$15**/200

1997 LENTEN CALENDAR builds upon the traditional Lenten practices of worship and meditation. With Scriptural readings and spiritual accents for each day, this is a great reminder of the meaning of Lent. Printed in full color on both sides of an 8.5" x 11" sheet, **this calendar has space for parishes to imprint their schedules for Lent and Holy Week services.** For use in home or office, ideal for bulletin board or refrigerator door. Order Code **DC-9,** Cost: **$10.90**/100, **$42**/500, **$78**/1000.

THE SAVIOR SAYS, "I AM"

Daily Bible Readings for the 1997 Lenten Season

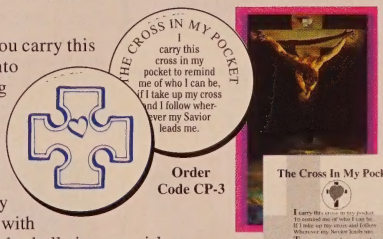
"I AM the Way, the Truth, the Life … the Light of the World … the Bread of Life … the Resurrection and the Life … the Good Shepherd … I AM with you always." In the "I AM" sayings of Jesus, faithful believers continue to hear echoes of the burning bush, and the Lord's great promises of deliverance there, and realize that it is *that* Lord whom we follow day by day throughout the weeks of Lent. These daily readings help illuminate the way. Order Code **BF-9**, Cost: **$.12**/1-499, **$.11**/500-999, **$.10**/1000+

THE CROSS IN MY POCKET

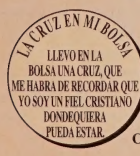
AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH & SPANISH

It's like tying a string around your finger! - when you carry this unique cross in your pocket. Each time you reach into your pocket or purse, it's a reminder of the meaning of Lent. Here is an idea that works to make Lent more meaningful for your people...and it costs less than a postage stamp.

• A daily reminder of Lent • Perfect as an enclosure in Lenten mailings • Can be passed out on Ash Wednesday or on the 1st Sunday in Lent • Ideal to coordinate with sermon and bulletin; print a verse of the poem in the bulletin or parish newsletter each week. Code **CP-1** or **CP-3** English Version, **CP-2** Spanish Version. Cost: **$.19**/1-99, **$.18**/100-499, **$.17**/500-999, **$.16**/1000-1999, **$.14**/2000+ *Note: For this cost you receive the special wooden medallion and an equal number of the cards entitled, "The Cross in My Pocket."*

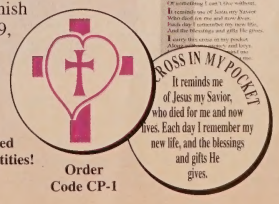


Order Code CP-3



Order Code CP-2

Please note: The Spanish version of *The Cross in My Pocket* medallion features the same style purple cross as item CP-1.



Limited Quantities!

Order Code CP-1

Also available, finely crafted **metal** crosses, beautiful silver or bronze colors with the inscription, "God Loves You" embossed on the cross. With each cross you receive a copy of the poem, "I Carry This Cross in My Pocket." Cost: **$.25**/1-99, **$.23**/100-499, **$.21**/500-999, **$.19**/1000-1999, **$.16**/2000+. Order Code **CP-S** (Silver Cross), **CP-G** (Bronze Cross).

NEW THIS YEAR!

LENTEN LITANIES

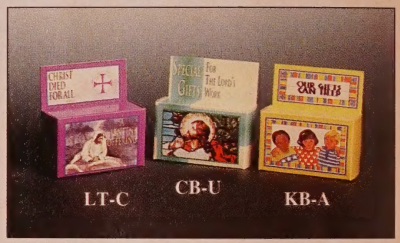
FAITHFUL, WE FOLLOW is a series of six litanies. Each of the six weekly litanies in this series derives its theme from the historic Latin names for the successive six Sundays in Lent, but with modernized wording. Thus, for example, *Invocavit* becomes "I call upon the Lord"; *Occuli* becomes "I look to you, O Lord"; *Judica* becomes "Oh, vindicate me, Lord." Congregation responses (four stanzas per week) are sung to *Mendon* (or any other suitable L.M. melody). A list of suggested weekly Bible readings urges worshipers to take the litany home for use there. Order Code **TC-C** for the series of six litanies, Cost: **$.25**/1-499 sets, **$.20**/500-999 sets, **$.16**/1000+ sets

THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS is a series of six responsive litanies that may well be used to begin the service on each of the Sundays in Lent. Interspersed with musical stanzas to the tune *Southwell* ("Lord Jesus, Think on Me") each litany employs thoughts from the appointed (Series B) Scriptures for the day, while the congregation responds repeatedly with the historic Introit Antiphon for the day (from which these Sundays originally derived their Latin names). One of the hymn stanzas includes confession of sins, and the final one would lead naturally into the Prayer of the Day. Order Code **TC-8** for the series of six litanies, Cost: **$.25**/1-499 sets, **$.20**/500-999 sets, **$.16**/1000+ sets

LENTEN COIN FOLDER AND COIN BOXES

Many parishes find Lent the ideal time to ask for a special gift. Illustrated beautifully for Lent, this coin holder invites Christians to set aside a quarter a day and thus $10 during the forty days of Lent. A slot makes possible an additional check or currency offering. The back cover has space for the contributor's name and offering envelope number. Folds to 4"x 6 1/8" to fit in a standard envelope. Order Code **LC-F**, Cost: **$.38**/1-99, **$.35**/100-499, **$.33**/500+ Envelope for coin holder, Order Code **EN-V**, cost: **$4**/50, **$6**/100, **$20**/500

These Offering Boxes are an ideal way to remind the members of your parish that Lent is a time for sacrificial giving. Illustrated with the themes, "Christ Died for All," "Special Gifts—for the Lord's Work," "Our Gifts Can Help," (for young people)—boxes fold to fit in a #10 envelope (Order Code **LT-C, CB-U** or **KB-A**). The boxes measure 2 1/2" x 1 5/8" x 3 3/4". Cost: **$.38**/1-99, **$.35**/100-499, **$.33**/500+



NEW THIS YEAR!

LENTEN PRAYER BOOKS

CALLED TOGETHER is a 16-page booklet featuring a weekly devotion for Lent plus suggestions for activities throughout Lent. Both **children and parents** participate in the weekly devotions which center on a Scripture reading and reflection that concludes with a family recitation of the Lord's Prayer. Scripture passages are printed in the booklet, using the clear and concise Contemporary English Version of the Bible. Suggested family activities for Lent involve variations of the traditional disciplines of fasting, almsgiving and prayer. Order Code **LF-2** Cost: **$.33**/1-199; **$.30**/200-499; **$.28**/500-999; **$.26**/1000+

LENT AT HOME, by popular writers Kathy and Mitch Finley, offers practical ideas for celebrating Lent as a family. Through prayers and simple activities, families can build on the experience of Lent that children encounter at church and in school. Activity suggestions include planting seeds in paper cups to demonstrate growth during Lent, creating a Lenten "map" to follow the progress of the season, and praying with Jesus' "steps to Calvary" as a family. Order Code **LF-1** Cost **$.29**/1-499, **$.25**/500-999, **$.23**/1000+

NEW THIS YEAR!

LENTEN BOOKLETS FOR TEENS

SNAPSHOTS IN THE SHADOWS

Where do teenagers fit in? Traditional devotional material is rarely aimed at today's active teen. Here, in *Snapshots in the Shadows*, teenagers will find devotions, prayers, activities, stories and Bible studies that use images and readings from Holy Week that teens can relate to. Reflective and active (the devotions are based upon activities the teenagers perform) the pages of this booklet don't just preach ... they leave room for a response. Teens are urged to express their faith through writing, drawing, imagining and praying. A small book (16 pages) that packs a powerful punch, *Snapshots in the Shadows* is a great way for teenagers to explore the meaning of the events of Holy Week. Also makes a great Lenten activity for confirmation classes! Code **CN-5**. Cost: **$.33**/1-199; **$.30**/200-499; **$.28**/500-999; **$.26**/1000+

SAFE PASSAGE *A Lenten Journal for Teenagers*

Devotional booklets for the teenager in your congregation are scarce. Here, in *Safe Passage* you will find devotions, prayers, activities, stories and Bible studies that are sure to connect! Teenagers are led, through engaging, glib stories and devotions, to express their growing faith through writing, drawing, imagining and praying. This small (16 page) yet powerful Lenten journal is printed in full color throughout. And it's not just fluff. The devotions examine the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, beginning with our need for salvation and ending with Christ's resurrection. Great for confirmation classes, as well as those teens away at school! Order Code **CN-3** Cost: **$.33**/1-199; **$.30**/200-499; **$.28**/500-999; **$.26**/1000+

PALM CROSSES

GREAT FOR HANDOUTS ON PALM SUNDAY!

African Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday are handmade throughout the year by families in seven mud hut villages in Tanzania, East Africa, to supplement meager incomes. Sales help support community projects such as agricultural and vocational training, schools, water systems and emergency relief. These crosses are crafted from dry palm fronds and measure **approximately** 7.5 to 8.5 inches tall. Perfect for children and adults, the palm crosses are formed with a loop at the top, allowing them to be hung or worn on a cord. Order Code **PS-9**; Cost: **$8.50**/50, **$15**/100, **$70**/500. Must be bought in groups of 50.

LENT & EASTER PLACEMATS

NEW THIS YEAR!

When parishioners come together to share evening meals before Lenten mid-week services, or any other time, bring the flavor of Lent to the table with these placemats. Prayers for before and after the meal, definitions of Lenten terms and symbols, and text that triggers personal reflection combine to bring meaning to your Lenten meals. Order Code **PL-3** Cost: **$17**/100, **$69**/500, **$99**/1000

NEW THIS YEAR!

Use these Easter Sunrise Breakfast Placemats to accent the already joyful spirit of the Easter morning meal. A breakfast blessing, a resurrection litany, and the Easter gospel from Eugene Peterson's *The Message* keep the good news of Easter in the forefront of people's minds. A perfect way to make this year's Easter breakfast extra-special. Order Code **PL-2** Cost: **$17**/100, **$69**/500, **$99**/1000

EASTER CROSSES

NEW THIS YEAR!

Series Order Code **EC-J**

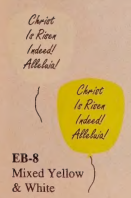
An Empty Cross... the fitting touch to Easter celebration. Mailed or brought home from your Easter services these new **Easter Crosses** are a reminder of Christ's victory over death. They work well attached to the refrigerator door, bulletin board...or used as a bookmark. Sold only in groups of 50, with approximately equal numbers of the four crosses. Order Code **EC-J, EC-H**, or **EC-A** Cost: **$6**/50, **$10**/100, **$40**/500, **$70**/1000

Series Order Code **EC-H**

Series Order Code **EC-A**

EASTER BALLOONS

EB-7
White only



EB-8
Mixed Yellow & White

Your people (young and old alike) will love to take these Easter balloons home to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ during the days following Easter.

· GREAT FOR A SUNRISE SERVICE! · GREAT TO DECORATE THE CHURCH & SCHOOL! · GREAT TO TAKE HOME!

Easter Balloons may be ordered in four ways: Mixed colors of Red, Blue, Green, Lavender, White and Yellow; Mixed Yellow and White; White only; or Yellow only. Average flying time with helium is **8 hours**. In general, balloons **should not be filled** with helium the night before Easter services. Order Code **EB-5** (mixed colors), Order Code **EB-8** (mixed yellow & white), Order Code **EB-6** (yellow only), Order Code **EB-7** (white only). Balloons are sold only in 50's, Cost: **$8**/50, **$15**/100, **$65**/500, **$110**/1000

EB-6
Yellow only

EB-5
Mixed colors

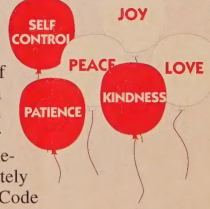
EASTER LITANIES

Risen Indeed! is a series of seven responsive litanies for the Easter Season. Beginning with Easter Sunday and continuing through the Sunday before Pentecost, they denote the ongoing joy and triumph of Eastertide and unite the entire Season with a common format and the repeated use of the familiar melody *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*.

If used following the Opening Hymn (of your own choosing), these litanies may well replace the Invocation and Kyrie in Sunday services for the entire Season. As such, they could well be followed immediately by a Hymn of Praise (such as *This Is the Feast of Victory for Our God*) and the Prayer of the Day. Since each litany uses material from all three cycles of the Lectionary to begin setting a theme for the day, they may be used in any year; their message is universal. Order Code **RD-1**, Cost: (full set of seven) **$.24**/1-499, **$.19**/500+

PENTECOST BALLOONS

Pentecost balloons provide a memorable illustration and take-home gift. In mixed lots, these red and white balloons are emblazoned with the Biblical gifts of the Spirit. Helium certified, they have a flying time after being filled with helium of approximately **8 hours.** Order Code **PB-1.** Cost: **$8**/50, **$15**/100, **$65**/500, **$110**/1000



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

O LORD, I'M LISTENING

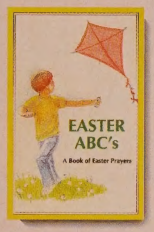
NEW THIS YEAR!

A previous book's title asked, "What do I SEE at Calvary?" This book is based on things one might HEAR while considering the great message of our Lord's suffering and death … beginning with a snake, continuing with a baby's cry … then sails flapping, wine pouring, roof tiles breaking … to snoring in the garden, an angry mob, a rooster, a whip, hammer blows, the Seven Words from the cross … to a sealed stone and sabbath silence. The devotions are in the form of prayers, and include Scripture reading suggestions. Order Code **KL-E**, Cost **$.46**/1-499, **$.40**/500-999, **$.38**/1000+

SAVIOR, I FOLLOW ON

Beginning with an Ash Wednesday meditation on Jesus' birth, the very personal prayers in this little booklet lead children, step by step, through the life of Christ—with parables and miracles, teaching and touching, calling and caring—to Holy Week prayers about how hard it is sometimes to tell the truth and even harder "to keep silent when that is the right thing to do," and a Good Friday prayer about trusting in the heavenly Father and a hopeful look ahead to Easter. Order Code **KL-D**, Cost **$.46**/1-499, **$.40**/500-999, **$.38**/1000+

EASTER ABC'S

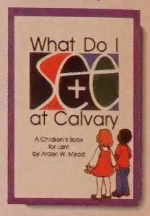


Easter ABC's is an inexpensive 36-page booklet, colorfully illustrated and written for children—that provides twenty-six prayers appropriate for Easter.

Easter ABC's emphasizes that Easter isn't just one day, it's a whole season—a whole new way of life. Ideal as a gift before or after Easter and especially on Easter Sunday for the parish children.

Easter ABC's Order Code **EP-1**, Cost: **$.57**/1-199, **$.54**/200-499, **$.49**/500+

WHAT DO I SEE AT CALVARY?



What Do I See At Calvary? invites kids to keep their eyes open throughout their Lenten journey. There are lessons to be learned from so many of the things one can see along the way, from palm branches to Passover, from olive trees to crowing cocks, from thorns and nails to dice and darkness, from a torn curtain to a toppled tombstone.

Daily devotions include suggested Scripture readings and personal prayers. And since Sundays are special even in Lent, on Sundays we look ahead to begin glimpsing where the story ends—a garden and a tomb, spices and a shroud, a stone and a seal, and an anxious angel. Order Code **KL-C**, Cost **$.46**/1-499, **$.40**/500-999, **$.38**/1000+

MORE CHILDREN'S LENTEN RESOURCES

NEW THIS YEAR!

JESUS IN JERUSALEM

A Sticker Journey Through Lent

This is a true original! Children and adults alike will enjoy recounting Jesus' final days with the help of this sticker book for Lent. A city-of-Jerusalem cut-out is constructed and used as a table centerpiece or a special decoration. Each day of Lent, a Bible reading from the Gospel of Mark is shared, an insightful prayer is offered, and a peel-and-stick sticker is placed on the city cut-out. Join the crowds as they lift palms to praise Jesus during his triumphal entry. Watch as Jesus clears the Temple. See Judas make a deal with the high priests. Listen in as Jesus and the disciples celebrate the Passover in the upper room. Witness Jesus' death ... and then his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday! A great way for children to visualize (and become involved in) the most important story they will ever hear! A booklet, two sheets of stickers and the city cut-out are included. Order Code **ST-A** Cost: **$.99**/1-24; **$.89**/25+

JELLY BEAN EASTER EGGS

A Fun and Meaningful Gift for Children at Easter, Perfect for Easter Egg Hunts!

Bunnies, Easter eggs, candy. So much of the secular celebration of Easter is just that—secular and meaningless. This little candy treat for children is a wonderful gift idea that also proclaims the true meaning of Easter. Jesus Lives ... and We Do Too! Bright and colorful, each plastic egg contains eight jelly beans and a special Easter message. A children's Easter sermon is included with each order. Also a great idea for your church's annual Easter Egg Hunt! Sold in sets of 12. Order Code **EG-G** Cost: 1-4 sets/**$3.98** each; 5-9 sets/**$3.60**; 10+ sets/**$3.49**

POWER OF GOD TRADING CAPS

A Great Way To Preach To The Children During Lent And Easter!

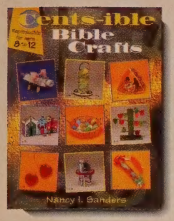
Trading-Cap-Mania is sweeping the nation. Few schoolyards are devoid of the little cardboard discs. Children love them, and for reasons many adults cannot perceive. So, these Trading Caps—WITH A UNIQUE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE—are sure to connect! The set of eight **Trading Caps for Easter** includes festive seasonal art and phrases—Alleluia, He Is Risen, Easter Joy, Shine Jesus Shine, etc. They can be given away as a special Easter gift, or used to help "drive home the good news of Easter" in a special Easter children's message (included!). **Trading Caps for Lent** focus on the seven words from the cross (plus Alleluia) and can either be given away as a set or used during the weeks of Lent (Sundays, or midweek services) in special children's messages. Nine messages are included—eight for use if the caps are given away separately, or one for use on a special Lenten day if the caps are distributed as a set. *A great way to preach to the children during Lent!* **Story of Salvation Trading Caps** are for use throughout the year, and give a delightful overview of the entire message of salvation—from Creation to Pentecost. The Creation, the Fall, The Birth, Death and Resurrection of Jesus—all are covered in a way that kids will understand. Again, 9 children's messages are included: 8 for use if the caps are given away separately, or one for use if all 8 caps are distributed as a set. **Lent** Order Code **GG-A**. **Easter** Order Code: **GG-B**. **Story of Salvation** Order Code: **GG-C**. Combine various sets to reach discount price. Cost: 1-11/**$.46**; 12-23/**$.42**; 24+/**$.38**

GG-A

GG-B

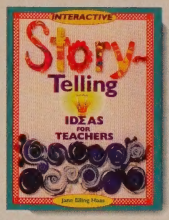
GG-C

SPECIAL RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN



CENTS-IBLE BIBLE CRAFTS

This collection of 37 Bible story-related crafts and projects actively teaches 8- to 12-year-old children God's Word using economical and easy-to-find materials. Each project includes simple directions, a list of materials that will be needed, Bible readings and activity options for the project. A reproducible letter to parents involves them in collecting materials for the projects. 64 pages.
Order Code **CB-A** Cost **$7.99**



INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING: IDEAS FOR TEACHERS

These innovative Bible storytelling ideas from Jane Haas draw children ages 4-9 into lessons through activity and interaction. Perfect for Sunday School, preschool and day school teachers. Students learn Old and New Testament stories by becoming a participant in storytelling. Every idea encourages students to learn through exercising their imagination and creativity. Reproducible patterns included. 8 3/8" x 10 7/8" paperbound, 64 pages. Order Code **AB-D** Cost **$7.99.**

SONGS KIDS LOVE TO SING 1 AND 2

There are now *two volumes* of favorite modern Sunday School songs in four formats: teachers' music edition, lyrics only edition, CDs or cassettes. Designed for the classroom, group gatherings or home, these songs cover a variety of ages and skill levels. A wonderful way to give children Christian values and make Jesus a part of every day.

8 1/2" x 11" teachers' music edition, paperback; Cost **$8.95**, *Songs Kids Love to Sing 1* Order Code **KS-1**, *Songs Kids Love to Sing 2,* Code **KS-5**

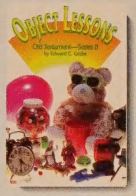
5 1/2" x 8 1/2" lyrics edition, paperbound; Cost **$1.75**, *Songs Kids Love to Sing 1* Order Code **KS-2,** *Songs Kids Love to Sing 2* Order Code **KS-6**

Double CD album, Cost **$19.95**, *Songs Kids Love to Sing 1* Order Code **KS-3,** *Songs Kids Love to Sing 2* Order Code **KS-7**

Double cassette album, Cost **$13.95**, *Songs Kids Love to Sing 1* Order Code **KS-4**, *Songs Kids Love to Sing 2* Order Code **KS-8**

GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS: 52 GOSPEL TALKS (SERIES B)

This collection gives a year's worth of ideas for presenting Gospel lessons in words children ages 3-8 can enjoy and understand. Each talk includes a central Bible truth, thought-provoking questions, suggestions for visual aids and a closing prayer. Just the thing for pastors, Sunday School, preschool and day school teachers. 5 3/8" x 8 3/8" paperbound, 128 pages. Order Code **AB-G** Cost **$8.99**.



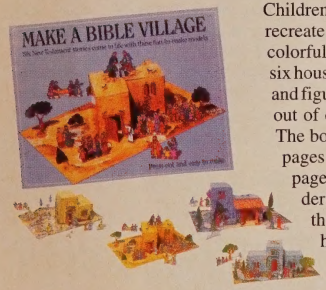
OBJECT LESSONS, OLD TESTAMENT

By incorporating a Gospel-based theme into Old Testament storytelling, these unique talks show children ages 5-8 the big picture of God's plan of salvation. Each message includes suggestions for easy-to-find props to reinforce stories, a Bible reference text and a prayer. 5 3/8" x 8 3/8" paperbound, 128 pages. Series A. Order Code **OT-1**
Series B. Order Code **OT-2**
Series C. Order Code **OT-3** Cost **$8.99** each.

JOURNEY WITH JESUS

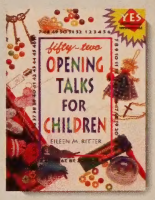
This 36-page booklet of fun, Bible-based activities, games, poems and stories is designed for children to enjoy during summer vacation. A perfect give-away on the last day of school, as a take home gift at VBS, or as a children's sermon give-away, **Journey with Jesus** promises to keep youngsters learning Bible stories at home and on vacation. It ties in with activities that kids enjoy—barbeques, trips, visits to the zoo and more. Kids read fun poems, write their own prayers, color pictures, solve crossword puzzles, and play games. Cost: **$.69**/1-11, **$.49**/12+ Order Code **JJ-1**

MAKE A BIBLE VILLAGE



Children will enjoy using their hands to recreate six well-known Bible stories in colorful, 3-dimensional tableaux. The six houses in which the stories take place and figures of the story characters punch out of card stock printed in full color. The book includes clear directions, 20 pages of punch-out shapes and eight pages of Bible stories in easy-to-understand language. Scenes include the house where: the man was healed, the taxman lived, the little girl was healed, the man was cared for, Jesus was born, and the house the young man left behind. Excellent for families, individual children or classrooms. A great value! Six projects for about the cost of single-project kits. Order Code **MV-G**, Cost **$11.95**

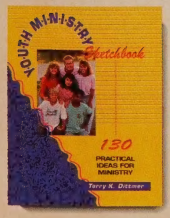
52 OPENING TALKS FOR CHILDREN



This 64-page book gives teachers and pastors clever opening devotions that convey Bible truths to children. These 52 talks are suitable for day school chapel, Sunday School and VBS. They focus on Bible stories and Christian concepts as well as on the festivals of the church year and secular holidays. Appropriate for any denomination. Reproducible prayers and visual patterns are included. Large-sized paperback. Cost: $**7.99** Order Code **OT-C**

SPECIAL RESOURCES FOR TEENS

YOUTH MINISTRY SKETCHBOOK:
130 Practical Ideas for Ministry

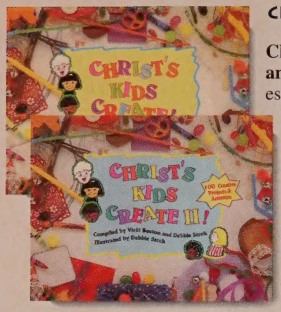


This book will help your youth leaders reach teens in church and community. Terry Dittmer draws upon over 20 years of experience, offering valuable advice on youth events, witnessing, Bible study, one-on-one relational time and more. 8 3/8 x 10 7/8" paperbound. 128 pages. Order Code **AB-F** Cost **$12.99.**

RITES OF PASSAGE

Unlike the traditional prayer book aimed at the average teenager, **Rites of Passage** promises to connect! Part prayer book, part journal, this guided journey through the passages of life (Baptism, Confirmation, Family, Marriage, Career and beyond) invites readers to join in the writing of the book—exploring their growing faith, their hopes and ideals, and their sense of fun. Written in glib, engaging language, **Rites of Passage** includes short stories, cartoons, prayers, brief devotions, Christian interpretations of popular songs and poetry, and lots of questions. Activities include writing prayers, listing career goals, making collages, and journaling. Order Code **CN-2** Cost: 1-3/**$6.99**, 4-9/**$5.99**, 10+/**$4.99. Pastor's Sample Copy** may be ordered at the special reduced price of **$3.99** Order Code **CN-S.**

SPECIAL RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

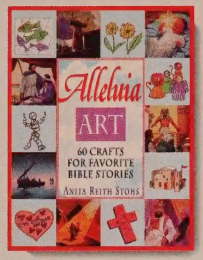


CHRIST'S KIDS CREATE I AND II

Christ's Kids Create! I and II are two of the handiest compilations of favorite craft projects for children 4 to 14. These 8 1/2" x 11" jumbo paperbacks each include over 100 three-dimensional projects, easy puppets, banners, and things to wear, hang up and give as gifts. And don't miss the list of ideas for creative centers in each volume. A great resource for teachers and parents. **Vol. I**, Order Code **CK-C**; For **Vol. II**, Order Code **CK-D**, Cost each: **$9.95.**

CREATION CRAFTS

A book of craft ideas with a twist, **Creation Crafts** helps children (ages 4-8) learn about ecology and care of God's earth through 32 easy craft projects and activities. Each activity comes with a full-page pattern, using materials from around the house or classroom. Most require tracing or use of a copy machine. These crafts provide colorful decorations while giving kids an appreciation for the beauty and wonder of creation. 64 pages 8 1/2" x 11". Paperbound. Code **CC-1**, Cost: **$5.99**



ALLELUIA ART

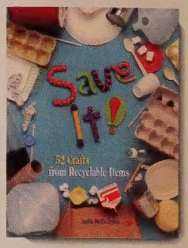
These 60 craft and art projects by Anita Reith Stohs reinforce Old and New Testament stories using easy-to-find materials. Includes cut-paper collages, crayon etchings and much more for 6- to 10-year-olds. Each project includes a Bible reference, materials list, directions and suggested variations. Paperbound, 64 pages. Order Code **21-3,** Cost **$7.99**

BIBLE PUZZLE BOOKS

Sneaky words are hiding in puzzles throughout these books just waiting to be found! 8- to 12-year-olds love figuring out these puzzles. And while they're having fun, they learn important things about the Bible. Both books are packed with word searches, word scrambles, fill-in puzzles, pyramids and more. Every page is reproducible! Bible Puzzle Spectacular. Cost: **$4.99**. Order Code **AB-L.**Bible Puzzle Marathon. Cost: **$4.99**, Order Code **AB-M.**

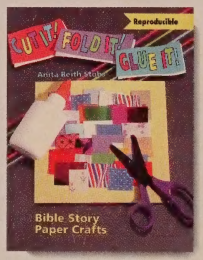
CRAFTS FROM RECYCLABLE ITEMS

A great craft book for busy teachers and parents, **Save It!** includes a year's worth of ideas for children's art projects. For ages 4-9, all projects are related to specific Bible stories. Use items otherwise thrown away: food containers, bottles, magazines, cups, etc. These ideas will help you and your young people make better use of God's earth through recycling. 64 pp., 8 1/2" x 11" size. Order Code **KB-9,** Cost: **$7.99**



BULLETIN BOARDS FOR BUSY HANDS

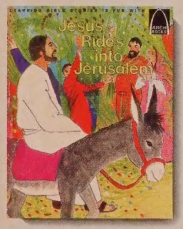
These interactive bulletin board ideas from Anita Reith Stohs reinforce 40 Old and New Testament stories by involving children in planning and assembling fantastic bulletin boards. Classroom teachers will find that 7- to 10-year-olds love these hands-on projects, including gathering materials, creating crafts and constructing bulletin boards. Flexible format is adaptable to meet the needs of each class. 8 3/8" x 10 7/8" paperbound, 64 pages. Order Code **AB-C,** Cost **$7.99**.

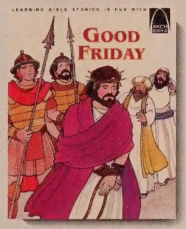


CUT IT! FOLD IT! GLUE IT!

These simple craft ideas from Anita Reith Stohs require easily accessible and inexpensive paper products to make Bible learning memorable and fun. Over 45 crafts encourage 6- to 10-year-olds to exercise creativity while learning Old and New Testament Bible stories. All patterns are reproducible. Great for professional and volunteer teachers. 8 3/8" x 10 7/8" paperbound, 64 pages. Order Code **AB-B** Cost **$7.99**.

ARCH BOOKS® FOR LENT & EASTER

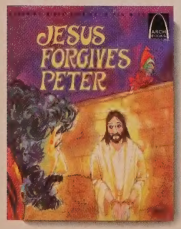


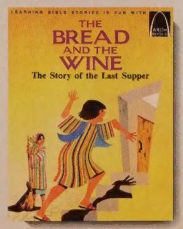


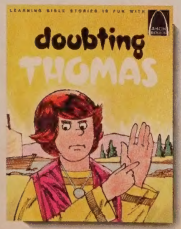
From Arch® Books, trusted by generations of Christian parents, come five colorful 24-page paperbacks for the season of Lent/Easter. Aimed at children ages 5 to 9, each sturdy 6" x 8" book features a story in rhyme with colorful illustrations.

Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem (Jesus' Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem). Order Code **CH-B**, Cost: 1-3 **$1.99**; 4+ **$1.59**.

The Bread and the Wine: The Story of the Last Supper (We watch Jesus' celebration of the Last Supper through the eyes of a young boy). Order Code **CH-C**, Cost: 1-3 **$1.99**; 4+ **$1.59**.







Jesus Forgives Peter (We follow Peter from the Last Supper to his repeated denials and the happy ending of Jesus' forgiveness). Order Code **CH-8**, Cost: 1-3 **$1.99**; 4+ **$1.59**.

Good Friday (From Palm Sunday through Easter morning's resurrection we go with our Lord on his most difficult mission—death on the cross). Order Code **CH-A**, Cost: 1-3 **$1.99**; 4+ **$1.59**.

Doubting Thomas (After Jesus called Thomas to follow him, the disciple saw wonders but doubted the greatest miracle of all). Order Code **CH-9**, Cost: 1-3 **$1.99**; 4+ **$1.59**.

CARDS FOR TEACHERS AND PUPILS

SK-1

SK-2

SK-3

Creative's seven cards for Christian schools are perfect for thanking teachers, parents and students. Sally Beck's brilliant art plus a Christian message and Scripture verse grace every card. You may combine any number of the seven different cards to reach a quantity discount price. Cards are supplied flat with quality, matching envelopes.

Teacher Thank you: *Your love of the Lord is reflected in the face and heart of every child in your class. Thanks for the faithful witness.* plus Ps. 34:11. Order Code **SK-1**; *Well done! Noah's Ark—a monumental task, an incredible act of faith, a spectacular witness to God's love. You've been building arks—and we're grateful.* plus Heb. 11:7. Order Code **SK-2**

Parent Volunteer: *Hats off to a very special volunteer. Hats off to a very special friend of our school. Hats off to a very special worker in God's kingdom.* plus Eph. 1:15-16. Order Code **SK-3**; *Thanks a bunch—from our bunch! You give so much to our school.* plus Ps. 26:7. Order Code **SK-4**; **Student Recognition:** *You're a star! Star gazing, Twinkling star, Seeing stars, Star of the show. Today YOU are the STAR - Congratulations.* plus Job 38:7. Order Code **SK-5**; **Student Birthday:** *Birthday blessings, friend of Jesus. May your day be filled with fun. Be at peace and sleep with angels, When your birthday day is done.* plus (canticle) *"Young women will dance for joy and men young and old will make merry."* Code **SK-6**; **Sick Child.** *How sad we feel to see your empty seat. We hope and pray you'll soon be on your feet.* plus Eph. 6:15. Code **SK-7** Cost **$.58** each/25-49, **$.48** each/50-99, **$.42** each/100+.

SK-4

SK-5

SK-6

SK-7

SUNDAY SCHOOL POSTCARDS

FOR FIRST-TIMERS, ABSENTEES AND BIRTHDAYS

Postcards to help you build up your Sunday School! Bright, youthful art by Sally Beck, plus a greeting, a short Scripture verse, and space for your message on the mailing side. The 3 1/2 x 5 1/2" cards come in packs of 25. Cost: **$3.95**

You added something special *to our class today. Thanks. Please come again. I Cor. 12:27.* Order Code **SB-E**

Happy Birthday:

Today's a day to sing and shout ... *And what's this happiness about? A friend of ours was born today and this is what we want to say: Jesus bless you on your birthday—and every day.* Psalm 132:9. Order Code **SB-F**

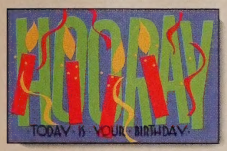
Hooray! Today is your birthday. *Jesus and your friends at Sunday School are happy for you.* Order Code **SB-G**

Nobody else can fill your shoes *(Come join us next Sunday! 1 Cor 12:4).* Order Code **SB-A**.

We're all smiles *(thinking about seeing you again in Sunday School. Phil. 1:7)* Order Code **SB-B**.

Don't skip the fun *(See you in Sunday School! Ps. 47:1)* Order Code **SB-C**.

SB-E



SB-G

SB-F

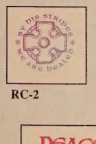
SB-C

SB-A

SB-B

CHRISTIAN RUBBER STAMPS

RC-1


RC-2

RB-4

RC-3

RB-1

RB-2

RB-3

RC-4

Pastors, teachers—use these to brighten your school papers or parish letters, envelopes, seasonal gifts or handouts. Here's a collection of contemporary Christian art on rubber stamps and a choice of multi-color, opaque pigment stamp pads for unexcelled color and resolution quality. Stamps approx. 1 1/2 x 1 1/2" size.

Alleluia, Order **RC-1**; *By His Stripes,* Order **RC-2**; *He Hath Borne,* Order **RC-3**; *He is Risen,* Order **RC-4**; *Peace on Earth,* Order Code **RB-1**; *Joy to the World*, Order Code **RB-2**; *Jesus*, Order Code **RB-3**; *God Bless You*, Order Code **RB-4**; Cost: **$5.00**/1-4; **$4.00**/5+ each. Large 12-color rainbow stamp pad, Order Code **RB-L**, Cost **$14.50**/1-4; **$11.95**/5+. 3-color stamp pad *Advent/Christmas* (metalic gold, deep red and green), Order Code **RB-C**, Cost **$6.95**/1-4; **$5.95**/5+. 3-color stamp pad *Easter/Spring* (yellow, medium green and violet), Order Code **RB-S**, Cost **$6.95**/1-4, **$5.95**/ 5+

BALLOONS

These colorful balloons add just the right accent to many church, school and Sunday School functions. Catchy slogans, cheerful illustrations highlight the fellowship when Christian children gather for play, study and worship. Order mixed bags of colors and slogans.

Order Code **CB-3**, Cost: **$8**/50, **$15**/100, **$110**/1000. Or, order quantities of each individual balloon, Order Code **CB-4**. Please specify your choice.

Helium-certified, these balloons have a flying time of approximately **8 hours** after being filled!

CHILDREN'S AND TEACHER'S RESOURCES
CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH
(800) 325-9414 8-5 WEEKDAYS 8-2 SATURDAYS

New!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

LET'S FOLLOW JESUS – VBS 1997

All Aboard the J-E-S-U-S express for active Bible learning, Gospel sharing and fun!
Let's Follow Jesus from CPH will take kids all over the world on a tour of fun and Bible learning. Each day's travel has been planned to lead to a wonderful destination—salvation through faith in Jesus! Colorful characters, super songs, skits and puppet plays all interact with the day's lesson so Scripture is taught and reinforced the way kids learn—actively.

- Easy to use with step-by-step instructions
- Classroom-tested
- Hands-on, active learning through age-appropriate lessons, crafts and activities
- Economical, new and improved, time-saving Buddy Box crafts
- Great resources for organizing and promoting your VBS

FREE VBS catalog of all VBS materials and support items for 1997 Order Code **VB-C**

VBS CURRICULUM FOR 6 AGE LEVELS

Preschool, ages 3-5
Kindergarten, completed Kindergarten
Primary, completed grades 1 and 2
Junior, completed grades 3 and 4
Preteen, completed grades 5 and 6
Junior High, completed grades 7 and 8
(Adult Bible Study corresponding with student lessons also available)

FIVE DAY ITINERARY

Day 1: *A Celebration Beside the Sea (The Exodus)*
Day 2: *A Visit at a Monument (Crossing the Jordan)*
Day 3: *Exploring Ancient Ruins (Victory at Jericho)*
Day 4: *A Day Beside the Lake (Jesus Calls His Disciples)*
Day 5: *A Day on a Mountain (Jesus' Crucifixion)*

LET'S FOLLOW JESUS

STARTER KIT—HERE'S YOUR TICKET TO PLANNING A TERRIFIC VBS!

- Director's Guide: All-new step-by-step manual for conducting a successful VBS.
- Teachers Guides: Age-appropriate lessons and fun teaching approaches for all levels.
- Student Materials: Include colorful leaflets, great magazines and other essentials.
- Buddy Box Crafts: contains imaginative projects that reinforce learning.
- Promotional Pak: Includes the Songbook, Good News for the World Mission Project, clip art, over a dozen samples of all you need to promote VBS and fill your J-E-S-U-S Express with teachers, students and neighbors.

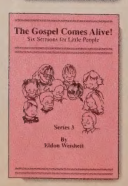
Starter Kit *($60 value)* Order Code **VB-1** Cost just **$31.99**

CHILDREN'S SERMON RESOURCE KITS

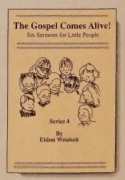
Twelve sermons have been prepared by Pastor Eldon Weisheit, nationally known author of more than 18 books of children's sermons. Each kit includes **six sermons** in a small booklet and **10 each of the special resources** that fit the sermons ...no more shopping or gathering things together. They all come to you in the **Children's Sermon Resource Kit**! Order Code **KK-1, KK-3,** and **KK-4** Cost for each kit: **$17.95**

According to Pastor Weisheit, "These sermons are the kind that kids can easily relate to and, as we all know, many times we are able to preach to the adults through the children, touching upon the mystery that there is still something of the child in each of us...good thing! Because the kingdom of God belongs to little children."

For each of the kits, you can order extra units of the resources. Each extra unit brings you 10 more of the resources for each of the 6 sermons in the kit. Order Code **KE-1** (for series 1), **KE-3** (for series 3) or **KE-4** (for series 4). Cost **$10** for each unit of 10 resources for each of the sermons in that kit, 60 resources in all.



Series 1 Great for the Fall Season!
6 sermons & resources for use fall/winter Order Code **KK-1**. Resources include: **• 6 sermon cards with cover • 10 ID cards • 10 posters • 30 Thanksgiving stickers • 10 sheets of wrapping paper • 30 Christmas napkins • 10 bedtime prayer cards**



Series 4
6 sermons & resources for use throughout the year Order Code **KK-4**. Resources include: **• 10 erasers • 10 balls • 10 binder clips • 10 buttons • 10 stickers • 10 nubs**

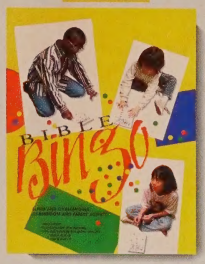
Series 3
6 sermons & resources for use throughout the year Order Code **KK-3**. Resources include: **• 6 sermon cards with cover • 10 4-fold prayer cards • 10 grace/faith medallions • 20 "thank you" stickers • 10 "huggable" posters • 10 pin-on buttons • 10 children's Gospel gift certificates**

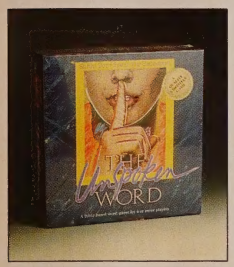
CHRISTIAN GAMES FOR CHURCH AND HOME

BIBLE BINGO

Here is a great way for children and adults to learn about the Bible. Each Bible Bingo card includes 5 biblical themes (The Beatitudes, "I am's," Names of God, Gifts of the Spirit, and The Obedient). Players begin to associate biblical people to these 5 biblical themes. The theme, word and its Scriptural reference are included on each of the 75 calling cards. Game includes 56 bingo card combinations, markers, calling cards and instructions. Order Code **GA-1**, Cost: **$15.95**/1-2; **$12.95**/3+

NEW THIS YEAR!

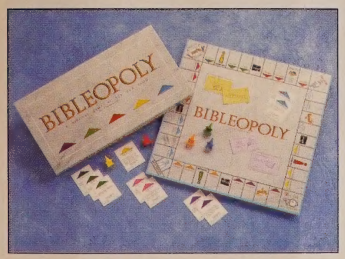




NEW THIS YEAR!

THE UNSPOKEN WORD

The word is Adam. The unspoken words are Eve, Garden of Eden, first, man, and Cain. You must get your team to say "Adam" without saying any of the unspoken words. This is a great ice-breaker for youth groups or any gathering. The Unspoken Word is an enjoyable way to explore the Bible with family and friends. Order Code **GA-3**, Cost **$29.95**/1-2, **$24.95**/3+.



BIBLEOPOLY™

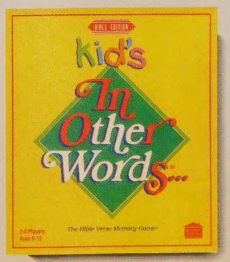
combines the fun of a board game with remarkable cities of the Bible. Once players have earned their "Cornerstone" by helping a fellow player or doing "Community Service" they make offerings in order to obtain the bricks and steeple needed to build a church building. Who will be the first person to make it to the goal? Ages 8 to adult. Order Code **GM-1**, Cost **$24.95**/1-2, **$22.95**/3-4, **$19.95**/5+

BIBLE CATEGORIES GAME™

This is a Bible-based version of the popular category game and is fun for the whole family, youth group, or Sunday School class. Ages 12 to adult. Order Code **GM-3**, Cost **$19.95**/1-2, **$18.95**/3-4, **$17.95**/5+

IN OTHER WORDS-KID'S EDITION

In this exciting game kids will have fun while sharpening their knowledge of the Bible. 600 different clues call for kids to decipher their meaning using synonyms. Game includes four pawns, die, game board and 100 clue cards. **Ages 6-12**. Order Code **GM-5**, Cost: 1-2/**$15.99**, 3+/**$12.99**



NEW THIS YEAR!

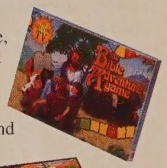
THE UNGAME

The leading family communication game. Players progress along the playing board as they answer questions such as, "What are the four most important things in your life?" This non-competitive game can be a great ice-breaker or a serious exchange of thoughts, feelings and ideas. Code **GA-2**, Cost: **$14.99**/1-2, **$12.99**/3+

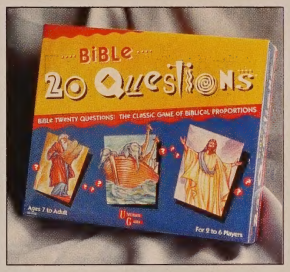
BIBLE ADVENTURE GAME

For church, school, Sunday school and the entire family (ages 8 and up) Makes Bible learning fun!

• Exciting new way to learn the Scriptures • Fun for Home, Church or School • 900 Scripture-based questions and answers • Easy, Moderate and Difficult play levels



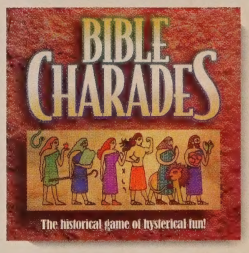
This new game is not only fun, it's a teaching tool. Spread out this full-color board, complete with playing pieces and cube, "Gifts" and "Perils" cards, and sturdy question cards and watch your family, group or class take off! Types of questions include spelling of words, true/false, multiple choice and completion. Great as a gift. Perfect as prizes. Use one in each classroom. Order Code **BA-G**, Cost: **$29.00**/1-2, **$26.95**/3-4, **$24.95**/5+.



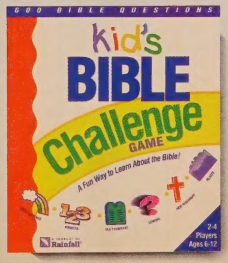
BIBLE 20 QUESTIONS™

This is a fast-paced, fact-based game that has players identify people, places, and things from the Bible. Clues are easy enough for the beginner and challenging enough for the seasoned 20 Questions player. Ages 7 to adult. Order Code **GM-2**, Cost: **$19.95**/1-2, **$17.95**/3-4, **$15.95**/5+

BIBLE CHARADES



A new twist on typical Bible knowledge games that's great for parties, youth group, classroom, or family gatherings. Teams of players race around the game board by correctly guessing charades of clues in one of six categories: Old Testament Stories, New Testament Stories, People & Places, Parables, Proverbs, and Hymns & Music. Game box comes complete with 200 boxed topic cards, game board, four playing pieces, one die, 30 plastic chips, and instruction sheet. **Ages 10 & up**. Order Code **GM-4,** Cost: 1-2/**$24.99**, 3+ **$19.99**

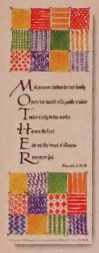


KID'S BIBLE CHALLENGE

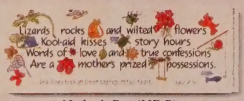
This fun trivia game teaches children about the Bible. Question categories include Old Testament, New Testament, Objects & Events, Numbers, and Places of the Bible. Game includes game board, 100 trivia cards, card holder, four pawns and die. **Ages 6-12**. Order Code **GM-6,** Cost: 1-2/**$14.99**, 3+/**$12.99**

CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH
(800) 325-9414 8-5 WEEKDAYS 8-2 SATURDAYS

MOTHER'S & FATHER'S DAY BOOKMARK HANDOUTS



Mother's Day (MF-T)



Mother's Day (MF-R)

Mother's Day (MF-S) Mother's Day (MF-X)

Colorful and catchy...these special bookmarks serve as a practical reminder that mothers and fathers are a gift from God. These bookmarks with their Scriptural quotations serve as an ongoing reminder that God blesses families. You receive an approximately equal number of each of the four bookmarks for either Mother's or Father's Day.

Father's Day (MF-U)

Father's Day (MF-W)

Father's Day (MF-Y) Father's Day (MF-V)

Order Code **MF-G** (Mother's Day **set of four**), **MF-H** (Father's Day **set of four**), Cost: **$6**/50 (12+ of each card), **$10**/100 (25 of each card), **$32**/400 (100 of each card).

Cards may also be purchased separately. Cost: **$.12**/1-49, **$.10**/50-399, **$.08**/400+

MOTHER'S DAY HANDOUT

Inexpensive and appreciated, either the parish or the children can present these colorful lapel pins (1" square) and bookmarks (2.5" x 7") to their mothers on Sunday. Two support pieces will help you incorporate this unique handout into the service. You'll receive a Mother's Day children's message and a reproducible litany showing how Christian mothers can be an example of God's love. Order Code **MF-C**, Cost: **$.69**/1-99, **$.62**/100-499, **$.59**/500-999, **$.49**/1000+. Pins only Order Code **MF-J**, Cost: **$.57**/1-99, **$.52**/100-499, **$.49**/500-999, **$.41**/1000+. Cards only Order Code **MF-Z**, Cost: **$.12**/1-49, **$.10**/50-399, **$.08**/400+

FATHER'S DAY HANDOUT

Here's an inexpensive but attractive gift that the parish or the children can give on Sunday, June 16: a gold metal lapel pin for Dad presented with a colorful bookmark (2.5" x 7"). Two support pieces will help you include this special handout in your service: a Father's Day children's message and a litany for the congregation. Order Code **MF-F**, Cost: **$.69**/1-99, **$.62**/100-499, **$.59**/500-999, **$.49**/1000+. Pin only Order Code **MF-L**, Cost: **$.57**/1-99, **$.52**/100-499, **$.49**/500-999, **$.41**/1000+. Cards only Order Code **MF-N**, Cost: **$.12**/1-49, **$.10**/50-399, **$.08**/400+

PRIVATE PRAYERS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

PRIVATE PRAYERS for Public Worship are printed on narrow cards that may be **placed in pew racks** or used as **hymnal bookmarks**, to encourage and enhance personal preparation and participation in the worship of the church.

Each card contains six prayers for private meditation: • Upon Entering • At the Sermon • At the Offering • Before Communion • After Communion • Before Departing — and the note: "Please leave this card for use at future services."

There are four different cards in this series (therefore four different sets of prayers), each with its own seasonal emphasis and distinctive color and design: *Advent/Christmas* (Order Code **PW-1**) • *Lent* (Order Code **PW-2**) • *Eastertide* (Order Code **PW-3**) • and "*Growing in the Lord*" for non-festival "green seasons" of the Church Year (Order Code **PW-4**).

Cost for each card: **$.11**/25-499, **$.09**/500-999, **$.08**/1000+. Minimum order 25 cards. Order **sets of all four cards**, Order Code **PW-5**, Cost: **$.33**/25-499 sets, **$.30**/500-999 sets. Minimum order of the sets is 25.

NEW LIFE WORSHIP CARDS

A perennial favorite now newly revised, the **Alleluia!** Communion Worship Card uses "The Church's One Foundation" and three popular Easter melodies. Order Code **W-15**

Entirely new, the **Living Lord** Communion Worship Card uses the melodies from "Oh Worship the King" and "For All The Saints." Perfect for the Easter Season or any other joyful celebration. Order Code **W-13**

Each **New Life Worship Card** by Creative Communications offers a different approach to one portion of your church service. Pass them out on selected Sundays or at special services. **The cards are reusable.**

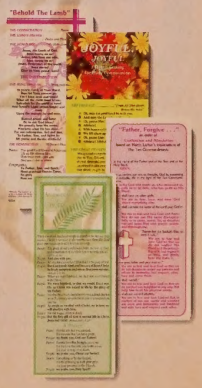
VARIETY FOR WORSHIP SERVICES · NEW CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES · MAKE LENT/EASTER SERVICES SPECIAL

Lent—"Behold the Lamb!" Lenten hymns shape this setting for Communion. Catch Lent's Spirit. Code **WC-8**

Easter-Pentecost—"Joyful, Joyful!" For Holy Communion this card employs cheerful melodies. Code **W-12**

All Year—"Father Forgive" For Lent or all year. A responsive confession using the commandments. Code **WC-3**

All Year—The Hope Card An easy-to-follow Worship Card for funerals that is ideal for small services. Code **W-10**



Worship Card Prices: 1-499 @ **$.15**, 500-999 @ **$.14**, 1000+ @ **$.11. Order any three worship cards at reduced prices:** 1-499 sets of three @ **$.33** per set, 500-999 sets of three @ **$.30** per set, 1000+ sets of three @ **$.22** per set. Music and instructions for the pastor are provided as needed with each order.

CANDLES

A B C D E

PASCHAL CANDLES

Paschal Candles –Now you can order Paschal Candles from Creative Communications. Exquisitely crafted by Emkay Candle in **51% Beeswax** in both raised wax and traditional designs. A set of incense nails is included with each candle. Standard Size 36" x 2". Other sizes upon request.

A.) Lumen Christi Design, Order Code **PC-3,** Cost: **$62**.
B.) Easter Joy Design, Order Code **PC-5,** Cost: **$79.60.**
C.) Hosanna Design, Order Code **PC-6,** Cost: **$79.60**.
D.) Christ Our Savior Design Order Code **PC-1,** Cost: **$79.60**.
E.) Plain Design, Order Code **PC-4**, Cost: **$47.15**.

Matching Altar Candles
(Sold in pairs)

A.) Hosanna Design, 12" x 1 1/2" Order Code **AC-3,** Cost: **$62.36**/pr.
B.) Hosanna Design, 17" x 1 1/2" Order Code **AC-4,** Cost: **$67.36**/pr.
C.) Easter Joy Design, 12" x 1 1/2" Order Code **AC-1,** Cost: **$62.36**/pr.
D.) Easter Joy Design, 17" x 1 1/2" Order Code **AC-2,** Cost: **$67.36**/pr.

A/B C/D

Order Code **CL-E** for 7 refill candles for Tenebrae Service Set. Cost: **$8.25.**

TENEBRAE CANDLES

Tenebrae Service Set— a white seven cup metal holder, and seven lavender straight side 9" tapers. Order Code **CL-D** for full set–cost: **$27.50**.

EASTER VIGIL CANDLES

Easter Vigil Kit– thin cierge tapers held by each congregation member for the Easter Vigil Service. Kits contain 100 10" candles and bobeches. Order Code **CL-G**, Cost: **$21.90.**

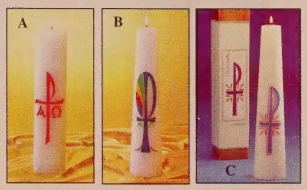
CONFIRMATION CANDLE

Confirmation Candle– Pure white wax candle, 8" X 7/8", decorated with a descending dove. Each candle comes with a presentation box. Order Code **CL-C** Cost: **$3.30** each.

CHRIST CANDLES

Christ Candles–symbolizing the presence of Christ. Ideal for the Easter celebration.

A.) Code **CC-5** 11" x 3" Cost **$28.50** (Raised Wax Design)
B.) Code **CC-6** 11" x 3" Cost **$19.75**
C.) Code **CC-7** 14" x 3" Cost **$19.20**



BAPTISM CANDLES

My Baptism Candle
9 1/2" white candle with beautiful baptismal font. Order Code **CL-A**, Cost: **$2.30** each, or 50 for **$103.50.**

Baptismal Candle
51% pure beeswax 9" candle with Chi Rho/Dove design. Order Code **CL-B**–Cost: **$2.95** each, or 50 for **$132.75.**

LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES

HOLY MASQUERADE
A Six-Part Study for Lent

Holy Masquerade, a novel by author Olav Hartman is the basis for a study of important Lenten themes: faith and doubt. Each week participants read a portion of the 140-page book. When participants gather, their reading is placed into the context of selections from Scripture. Student study guides lead them through a discussion about the meaning of faith, especially in the life of the church.

Holy Masquerade unfolds during the weeks of Lent and the book's chapters bear the old Latin names the church assigned for those weeks. Armed with her pagan honesty, Mrs. Svenson, the minister's wife, sets out to test the quality and depth of her husband's faith and that of his flock. In the process she—and the reader—become aware of her deep craving for faith.

Cost: Copies of the 140-page paperback book, ***Holy Masquerade*** (books can be shared) **$2.95**/1-10, **$2.50**/10+. Order Code **HM-5**, Leader's Guide **$3.95**, Order Code **HM-8**, Student Guide **$1.95**, Order Code **HM-9**

CRIES OF THE PASSION
A Six-Part Study for Lent

The penitential season of Lent is a time to prepare for the observance of Holy Week and Easter. **Cries of the Passion** focuses on the special events of those days as told by Mark, highlighting their meaning for modern Christians. Each of the six sessions provides guidance to help participants dig into the Word and take what they have learned into everyday life. A Leader's Guide provides detailed suggestions for each session.

Cries of the Passion Leader's Guide. Order Code **VS-4**; Cost: **$2.75**

Cries of the Passion Study Guide. Order Code **VS-5**; Cost: **$2.75**

For Your Lenten Bible Study
CHURCH YEAR BIBLE STUDIES:
Lent-Easter Ascension-Pentecost

The *Church Year Bible Study* books are for those who wish to examine in-depth the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons appointed in Series B for each Sunday, plus festival days. Every session will help lay people understand the lectionary, become familiar with its readings, discover a common theme from each Sunday's lessons and apply it to their lives. Includes 17 sessions (lessons for Sundays, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Ascension). Available leader's guides offer how-to and background information for each step of every session. **Study Guide** Order Code **B2-S** Cost: **$5.00; Leader's Guide** Order Code **B2-L** Cost: **$5.00**

JESUS OF NAZARETH VIDEO STUDY PROGRAM & SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY

God's Love In Jesus of Nazareth is a new **6-part Lenten Bible study**. Included is a detailed Leader's Guide (paper, 40 pgs.) and 12 copies of student work sheets for each session. 25 minutes of video provide an integral part of each session in this exciting series. From Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his glorious resurrection, the video drama and genuine Bible study provide an ideal Lenten growth opportunity. Code **JV-3** Cost **$19.95**

SAVE WITH A SPECIAL COMBINATION!
God's Love in Jesus of Nazareth Leader's Guide, 12 copies of each session's study questions for participants plus complete 3-cassette *Jesus of Nazareth* video. Code **JV-5** Cost **$54.95**

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Six Lenten Worship Services built around 25-minute episodes from *Jesus of Nazareth* use the video as the sermon. Colorful worship folders provide complete services with responsive readings, prayers, hymns and a Gospel lesson suited for each service. Perfect for a gathering at church or at home. Each order includes free worship leader's notes. **Pre-printed bulletins** in sets of 50 for each of 6 sessions. Code **JV-P** Cost: **$29**; 100 for each of 6 sessions, **$48**

*Note: Churches who have **Jesus of Nazareth** need order only the study or worship materials.*

Jesus of Nazareth is a highly acclaimed film portrayal of the life of Christ (3 tapes, 371 min., VHS) Code **V-45** Cost: **$44.95**

LENTEN PARISH RESOURCES
CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH
(800) 325-9414 8-5 WEEKDAYS 8-2 SATURDAYS

NEW THIS YEAR!

REMEMBER

Here is a unique order of service that can be used on either Ash Wednesday or Maundy Thursday … or BOTH! One bulletin order can serve both occasions!

While the printed liturgy—which includes original hymn stanzas to familiar Lenten tunes as well as scriptural responsories—serves both celebrations, what differentiates them is in the **Guides for Leaders**, provided with each order: a different (but reminiscent) form of Exhortation for each day, the option of including the Imposition of Ashes or Foot Washing, different emphases in the Prayers … and a **Sermon Study** as well as the Scripture readings you provide from your own lectionary.

Kit includes leader's guide, sermon study, music, and 50 pre-printed bulletins. Order Code **RM-A,** Cost: **$14.95**. Additional bulletins Order Code **RM-B**, Cost: **$9.90**/100, **$18**/200. Copyright Release Order Code **RM-C**, Cost: **$12.**

ASH WEDNESDAY

THOUGH THIS BODY BE DESTROYED, YET IN MY FLESH I SHALL SEE GOD.

This Ash Wednesday service sets the tone for the season by introducing such Lenten melodies as *O Sacred Head, Gethsemane* and *Consolation,* and allows the options of Imposition of Ashes and/or Holy Communion. Kit includes leader's guide and music, 50 copies of the bulletin, and a sermon study. Cost: **$14.95**, Order Code, **BY-A.** Additional bulletins cost **$9.90**/100, **$18**/200, Order Code **BY-B.** Copyright Release Order Code **BY-W**, Cost: **$12**.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

THE HOLY COMMUNION, a service for Maundy Thursday, emphasizes the relationship between *communion* and *community*. The pastor serves as *The Leader*, and *The Lone Voice* exemplifies separation. Five other readers each have one-line readings: *The Tax Collector, King David, The Lost Son, Peter,* and *Paul*. Fifty copies of the bulletin, music and the sermon cost just **$14.95**, Order Code **MT-K**. Additional bulletins Order Code **MT-5** Cost **$9.90**/100, **$18**/200. Copyright Release Order Code **MT-X**, Cost: **$12**.

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS can be used alone, or coordinated with the other Lenten services (see above). The service begins with a dramatic confession and absolution with hymn stanzas ending *O God, be merciful to me.* Scripture readings (to be chosen locally) are surrounded by other hymn stanzas that repeat the theme. Kit includes 50 copies of the bulletin, music, and homily by Professor Andrew Weyermann. Cost: **$14.95**, Order Code, **LU-C.** Additional bulletins cost **$9.90**/100, **$18**/200, Order Code **LU-D.** Copyright Release Order Code **LU-X**, Cost: **$12**.

GOOD FRIDAY

NEW THIS YEAR!

THE DARKNESS DEEPENS

To begin and end this richly solemn tenebrae service, stanzas of the familiar and beloved hymn *Abide With Me* weave in and out of the responsive reading of Psalm 22 ("My God, why have you forsaken me?"). The heart of the service is the reading of the Passion from John 18 and 19 in six parts, each with responses from Isaiah 53 and the extinguishing of candles. Kit includes leader's guide, music and 50 pre-printed bulletins. Code **LY-A,** Cost: **$14.95.** Additional bulletins Code **LY-B,** Cost: **$9.90**/100, **$18**/200 Copyright release Code **LY-C**, Cost: **$12**.

THE WAY OF SORROWS

The Way of Sorrows is a Good Friday tenebrae service in which ten successive candles are extinguished. The worship folder features **color illustrations** depicting the steps in our Savior's suffering. Each section of the service includes readings from **Isaiah 53** and the **Passion History** followed by a **responsive Psalm**. The service ends with the removal of the Christ Candle and the sounding of the *strepitus*. Orders of 50 worship folders or more include **Notes for Worship Leaders** with full text of all the readings and music. Order Code **GF-4** Cost: **$7**/50, **$10**/100.

TENEBRAE–The traditional tenebrae service is moving and dramatic, but can be complicated—especially for small congregations. **Tenebrae** captures the depth of the traditional Good Friday service in a simple format. **Readings** (TEV translation) **& instructions** included for this dramatic service of darkness. Cost **$11.95** for the Leader's Guide, readings and 50 bulletins. Order Code **TB-K.** Extra bulletins, Order Code **TB-B**, Cost **$5.50**/50, **$9.90**/100.

IN THE DARKNESS–LIGHT A Good Friday service of darkness (tenebrae) in which the congregation participates with candles. Kits include: Pastor/Participant's Manual • Readings & Homily • 50 copies of the pre-printed service folders • 50 4"x 1/2" congregational candles & drip protectors. Order Code **SD-1.** Cost of kit **$19.95.** Without candles cost is **$11.95.** Order Code **SD-C.** Additional pre-printed bulletins **$9.90**/100, **$18**/200. Order Code **SD-2**. Blank bulletins Order Code **SD-3 $7.90**/100, **$32**/500. Additional candles and bobeches @ **$.17** each Order Code **CL-1.**

PALM SUNDAY

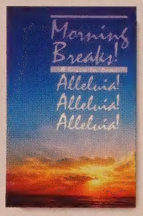
CRY ALOUD! offers exciting responsive readings to surround the Processional Gospel for Palm Sunday, as well as a new Processional Hymn to the tune of *Onward Christian Soldiers,* to involve the congregation actively in the fluctuating moods of this very special day... Colorful and sized 4" x 11" to attract attention. Cost: **$5**/100, **$20**/500. Order Code **PM-A**.

EASTER VIGIL

THIS IS THE NIGHT! is a modern Easter Vigil service for Holy Saturday involving the images of fire and water and following the traditional four-part outline: **1)** *From Darkness to Light* **2)** *From Bondage to Freedom* **3)** *From Death to Life* **4)** *From Promise to Fulfillment*. Printed bulletins include all hymns and readings for the congregation. Kit includes 50 pre-printed bulletins, Notes for Worship Leaders, copies of the readings, and music. Kit: **$14.95**, Code **EV-6**. Extra bulletins **$9.90**/100, **$18**/200, Code **EV-E.**

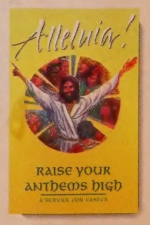
NEW THIS YEAR!

EASTER



MORNING BREAKS! is ideal for an Easter sunrise service. Its opening responses recall many biblical mornings (beginning with Creation and climaxing with Easter) with the response, "And God saw that it was good." The service folder includes two new hymns (to the tunes of *Morning Has Broken* and *Ode to Joy*). Kit includes 50 copies of the bulletin, music, and a sermon study involving real eggs. Order Code **LY-D**, Cost: **$14.95**. Additional pre-printed bulletins Order Code **LY-E,** Cost **$9.90**/100, **$18**/200, Copyright Release Order Code **LY-F**, Cost: **$12.**

RAISE YOUR ANTHEMS HIGH Ideal for use as a sunrise service or later on Easter morning, this simple order of worship overflows with triumphant praise, beginning with traditional shouts from Ps.118 and continuing through appointed readings for the day—all surrounded by exultant hymn stanzas. Kit includes 50 copies of the bulletin, music, and homily. Cost: **$14.95**, Order Code, **LU-G.** Additional bulletins cost **$9.90**/100, **$18**/200, Order Code **LU-H.** Copyright Release Order Code **LU-Z**, Cost: **$12.**

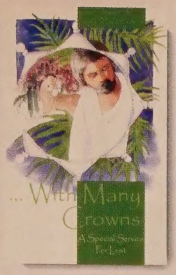


WITH MANY CROWNS

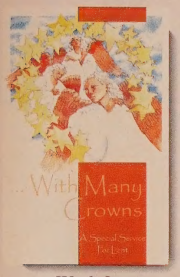
A WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICE SERIES FOR LENT

NEW THIS YEAR!

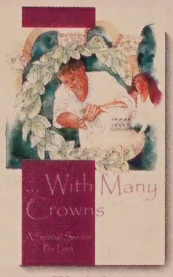
Ash Wednesday



Week 1

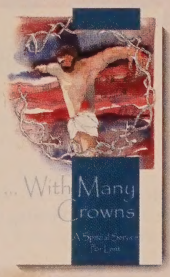


Week 2



Week 3

Week 4



Week 5

He didn't always look like the King he truly is—captured and bound, mocked and denied, accused and condemned, crowned with thorns and crucified. But even in those humbling events—*especially* in those humbling events—Jesus Christ is truly seen to be the King of kings and Lord of lords, worthy of all homage.

The services in this weekly series use "many crowns" to focus our attention on Jesus Christ—the crowns he wore … or wears … or will, to all eternity—as well as the crowns of those who opposed the will of the Lord and sought to thwart it, crowns that will eventually be cast down before him.

Printed in full in the **colorful worship folders**, **orders of service** include stanzas of the title hymn each week, as well as responsive readings from the book of Revelation. **Scripture readings** are delineated, **psalms** and **responsories** printed out, including a portion of Isaiah 53 offered as a Confession of Faith. **Prayers** are included in the Leader's Guide along with **music** for the organist. Each week's service includes stanzas of the hymn *Cast Your Crowns Before Him*, written especially for this series to the tune of *Onward Christian Soldiers,* as well as stanzas of another hymn (different each week) to amplify the theme. Bulletins may be ordered **pre-printed** or **blank**. Purchase of the kit grants a copyright release to use or adapt any of the materials in the sample bulletins included.

• The service for **Ash Wednesday**, "He Laid His Glory By," sets the series theme of the King's humility. • A **Regal Crown** befits the One who enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, hailed as "the Son of David." • Standing trial before the high priest, Jesus foretells the **Crown of Glory**, "when the Son of Man comes with all his angels, seated at the right hand of power." • Pontius Pilate's laurel wreath reminds us that all earthly authority is ultimately a **Fading Crown**. • Herod, the executor of John the Baptist, wears a **Tyrant's Crown** but is unable to silence the Word of God. • And the **Crown of Thorns** takes us to the cross itself, from which our King reigns.

Except for Ash Wednesday (whose sermon is a monolog), each of the homilies in this series involves **a second voice**, speaking perhaps from the balcony or from a lectern. For example, the voice of Mary comments on her ancestor David and her holy Son in the "Regal Crown" service; the voice of John the Baptist resounds in the Herod service; an angel in the "Crown of Glory" service. Sufficient copies of each manuscript are provided in the kit.

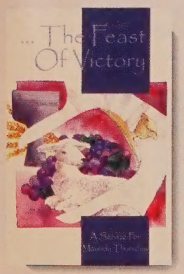
As a special bonus, each kit includes a disc in ASCII format with text for all elements of the program and of the bulletins. Of course, all items in the program are also included in the kit in print form. Complete **six-service kit** with IBM disc, Order Code **MC-E**; **kit** with Mac disc, Order Code **MC-G** Cost: **$29.95** each

Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **MC-P**, 50 for each of six weeks, **$29**; 100 for each of six weeks, **$48**; 200 for each of six weeks, **$80**. Blank Bulletins Order Code **MC-2**, 50 for each of six weeks, **$22**; 100 for each of six weeks, **$38**; 200 for each of six weeks, **$70**.

A **bulletin insert** to publicize the services is also available. Order Code **MC-7**, Cost: **$5**/100, **$20**/500

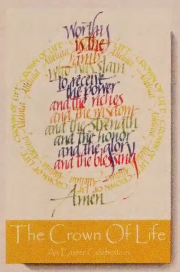
PLUS, ADD THESE THREE HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Supplement this series with three more services, each with a Leader's Guide similar to that described above. Cost: **$6.95** each. Or order all three for **$19.95**. As a bonus, orders for all three kits include a disc in ASCII format with text of programs and of bulletins. Order Code **MC-J**(IBM); **MC-K** (Mac).
Pre-printed bulletins for any of these services:**$5.50**/50, **$9.90**/100.
Blank bulletins: **$4**/50, **$7.90**/100, **$32**/500.



Maundy Thursday

Good Friday



Easter Sunday

A **Maundy Thursday** service with Holy Communion—"The Feast of Victory"—looks back to the Passover, the triumphant Exodus leaving behind Pharaoh's **Toppled Crown**. Code **MC-4**. Bulletins **MC-B** (printed), **MC-X** (blank)

The **Good Friday** service focuses on the cross, and the prayer, "Lord, Remember Me **in Your Kingdom**." Code **MC-5**. Bulletins **MC-C** (printed), **MC-Y** (blank)

The service for **Easter Sunday** (which one might consider for a sunrise service) offers the risen Savior's promise of a **Crown of Life**. Order Code **MC-6**. Bulletins **MC-D** (printed), **MC-Z** (blank)

If you need only services for **Ash Wednesday**, **Maundy Thursday**, **Good Friday**, and **Easter Sunday**, order each separately.

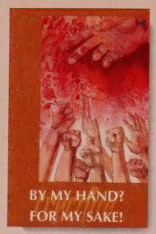
The **Ash Wednesday** service without the rest of the series, Code **MC-3**; Pre-printed bulletins **MC-A**; Blank bulletins **MC-W.** Prices for kits and bulletins are same as listed above.

A LENTEN LITURGY

LOOK TO THE LORD

Following the pattern of our popular *Today's Praise* and *Glad Voices Raise* contemporary liturgies using traditional melodies, LOOK TO THE LORD is designed specifically for use during the Lenten season. Customary liturgical hymns (but with the Gloria and Alleluia omitted for Lent) employ tunes like *Lord Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee, Our Father By Whose Name, O Love How Deep, O Sacred Head,* and *Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain.* A booklet with all the music accompanies each order of 50 or more. These attractive folders may be used again and again. Order Code **TP-3,** Cost: **$9.90**/100, **$40**/500.

Ash Wednesday—Eden

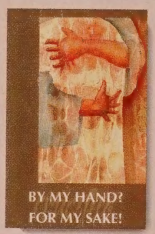


Week 1—Nicodemus

Week 2—Judas

Week 3—Barabbas

Week 4—Pilate



Week 5—Dismas' Father

BY MY HAND? ... FOR MY SAKE!

What is *your* role in the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ? In what ways might you be considered responsible? And in what ways do you benefit? Week by week these concerns are addressed—in first-person **monologs**—by biblical characters who actually *did* have a hand in the crucifixion of Christ. But earlier in the service, the pastor's **homily** lays the groundwork for what the congregation is about to experience.

Monolog scripts and pastoral homilies are provided in the *Leader's Guide* that is part of this kit—along with prayers for each service, suggested Scripture readings, and music for all the hymns included in the pre-printed orders of service. Purchase of the kit grants a copyright release to use or adapt any of the materials in the sample bulletins included.

For Ash Wednesday, **Adam** (or **Eve**—scripts are provided for both) recalls forbidden fruit once grasped, and its outcome: "To dust you shall return." For the next five weeks, parishes involved in **Lenten pulpit exchanges** will notice that the remaining services may be presented in almost any order: **• Nicodemus • Barabbas • Judas • Pilate •** and the father of the **Thief on the Right**. A complete reading script is provided for each character.

INCLUDED: A COMPACT DISC OR CASSETTE!

In addition, each kit includes a **CD** or **Cassette** for **all nine** services with music, sound effects, and voices to introduce the biblical character, and similar material to be played as soon as each monolog is finished. Also included are the monologs—to help parish actors "get into character" ... and as a resource that might be offered to local radio stations for Lenten or Holy Week broadcast.

Cost for the complete **six-service kit** with **compact disc** is **$29.95**. Order Code **BH-1**; complete kit with **cassette** is **$29.95** Order Code **BH-S.** *For a sample only, Code XB-H.*

Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **BH-P**, 50 for each of six weeks **$29**, 100 for each of six weeks **$48**, 200 for each of six weeks **$80**. **Blank bulletins** Order Code **BH-2**, 50 for each of six weeks **$22**, 100 for each of six weeks **$38**, 200 for each of six weeks **$70**.

Publicize the service with a special **bulletin insert/promotional flier**. Order Code **BH-7** Cost: **$5**/100, **$20**/500.

Maundy Thursday—Peter

Good Friday—Centurion

Easter—Mary Magdalene

PLUS, ADD THESE THREE HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Those who desire may supplement this series with three more services that continue the homily-plus-monolog format and theme. Each is ordered separately and includes all *Leader's Guide* features described above. Cost for each individual service kit: **$5.95**. Bulletin prices: Pre-printed bulletins for any of the four services below: **$5.50**/50, **$9.90**/100. Blank bulletins for any of the services below cost **$4**/50, **$7.90**/100, **$32**/500.

MAUNDY THURSDAY A **Maundy Thursday** service with Holy Communion features the disciple **Peter**. Order Code **BH-4**. Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **BH-B**. Blank bulletins Order Code **BH-X**. **GOOD FRIDAY** The **Good Friday** service features the **Centurion**. Order Code **BH-5**. Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **BH-C**. Blank bulletins Order Code **BH-Y**. **EASTER SUNDAY** "Cry Alleluia!"—a festive service for **Easter Sunday** (which one might consider for a sunrise service)—features **Mary Magdalene**. Order Code **BH-6**. Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **BH-D**. Blank bulletins Order Code **BH-Z**.

SATISFY YOUR LENTEN NEEDS WITH ITEMS FROM THIS KIT

If you need only services for **Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday** and **Easter,** order them separately! Prices above.
The **Ash Wednesday** service may be ordered without the rest of the series. Order Code **BH-3**. Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **BH-A**. Blank bulletins Order Code **BH-W**.
The **Compact Disc/Cassette** will also be useful in these services. To order separately, **CD** Order Code **BH-U** Cost: **$5.95; Cassette** Order Code **BH-T** Cost: **$5.95**

SILENT WITNESSES

• The Thorns • The Robe • The Nail • The Spear • The Shroud • The Stone. If only these things could speak! What might they tell us?

Silent Witnesses is a series of six services in which the chief speaker each week takes the role of one of the *things* associated with our Lord's suffering and death, describing and interpreting the event and its meaning from that object's point of view.

The homilies may be offered as two-person **dialogs** in which the objects are "interviewed" by a second participant—or, if you prefer, they may be offered as **monologs** simply by omitting the part of the interviewer in each script.

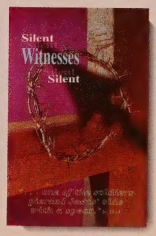
Each kit includes notes for worship leaders, multiple copies of the sermons, pre-planned services with samples of the six pre-printed bulletins, and a sample bulletin publicity insert. Cost for the complete kit **$24.95** Order Code **WS-1**.

Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **SW-P**, 50 for each of six weeks **$29**, 100 for each of six weeks **$48**, 200 for each of six weeks **$80**.

Blank bulletins Order Code **WS-2**, 50 for each of six weeks **$22**, 100 for each of six weeks **$38**, 200 for each of six weeks **$70**.

A bulletin insert to publicize the services is also available. Order Code **WS-7**, 100/**$5**, 500/**$20**.

For a sample,** Order Code **XW-S



THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS

In Christian art over the centuries the Cross has taken various forms, many of them rich in meaning. This Lenten series uses nine "historic crosses" to focus our worship.

• Ashen gray (for Ash Wednesday), the *Crusaders' Cross* begins the journey. • The *Hunters' Cross* (which seems to be made of arrow tips) takes us to our Lord's betrayal and arrest. • The royal blue *Sovereign's Cross and Orb* sees the King of kings on trial before a Roman ruler. • The *Cross of Lorraine*, once a symbol of WWII French resistance, speaks of constancy in the midst of change. • Blood red, the three-stepped *Cross of the Ascent* leads to Calvary, urging faith, hope, and love. • Even today in Europe and Canada, a green cross identifies a pharmacy; so the *Arced Cross* speaks of ultimate healing.

Bulletins may be ordered with service printed, or blank. Pre-printed bulletins include opening litany, prayer of the week, Scripture readings listed, responsive psalmody, theme hymn stanzas, a hymned setting of the Lord's Prayer, and responsive benediction.

Kit includes sample printed **bulletin, music** for the hymns (only the opening hymn each week need be chosen; suggestions are offered), **homilies** and **prayers** for each service. Cost for the complete kit **$25.95.** Order Code **CW-1.** *For a sample only, Order Code XC-W.*

Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **CW-P**, **$29**/50 for each of six weeks, **$48**/100 for each of six weeks, **$80**/200 for each of six weeks. **Blank 8.5" x 11" bulletins** Order Code **CW-2**, Cost: **$20**/50 for each of six weeks, **$38**/100 for each of six weeks, **$70**/200 for each of six weeks. **Blank 8.5" x 14" bulletins** Order Code **CW-M,** Cost: **$24**/50 for each of six weeks, **$42**/100 for each of six weeks, **$75**/200 for each of six weeks.

PLUS, ADD THESE THREE HOLY WEEK SERVICES!

Maundy Thursday: The *Rounded Cross* speaks of God's great love in the Lord's Supper. Code **CW-3**. Additional printed bulletins Code **CW-A**. Blank 8.5"x11" bulletin Code **CW-X**. Blank 8.5"x14" bulletin Code **CW-U**.

Good Friday: The black *Star Cross* proclaims Christ's saving work "finished." Code **CW-4**. Additional printed bulletins Code **CW-B**. Blank 8.5"x11" bulletin Code **CW-Y**. Blank 8.5"x14" bulletin Code **CW-V**.

Easter: The golden *Flowered Cross* bespeaks Christ's resurrection victory. Code **CW-5**. Additional printed bulletins Code **CW-C**. Blank 8.5"x11" bulletin Code **CW-Z**. Blank 8.5"x14" bulletin Code **CW-W**.

Services cost **$5.95** each or order all three for **$15.95.** Code **CW-6**. Kit includes music, prayers, and homily.

Printed bulletins for these three services cost **$5.50**/50, **$9.90**/100. Extra blank 8.5"x11" bulletins cost **$4**/50, **$7.90**/100, **$32**/500; blank 8.5"x14" bulletins cost **$4.40**/50, **$8.75**/100, **$35**/500.

PUBLICIZE WITH A SPECIAL BULLETIN INSERT!

A Bulletin Insert to publicize the services is available. Code **CW-7** Cost **$5**/100, **$20**/500.

Ash Wednesday Crusaders' Cross

Week 2 Hunters' Cross

Week 3 Sovereign's Cross

Week 4 Cross of Lorraine

Week 5 Cross of the Ascent

Week 6 Arced Cross

Maundy Thursday Rounded Cross

Good Friday Star Cross

Easter Sunday Flowered Cross

Bulletin Insert (**CW-7**)

WORDS THAT LAST FOREVER

This is a **seven-part** series (the seventh service, *Into Your Hands*, is appropriate for Good Friday) based on the familiar and beloved **seven words of Christ from the cross.**

The orders of service are simple and direct, each emphasizing that week's Word from the Cross in • a responsive opening litany stressing the Word of God and employing the Word from the Cross • responsive psalmody • weekly theme stanzas of *Our Savior Speaks in Grace* • a three-stanza office hymn based on the day's Word • responsive prayers that have the congregation praying what they have heard and sung.

Homilies apply our Lord's timeless statements to the times in which we live. The homilies are written in such a way that they may be delivered by a single preacher—or by three different interacting voices. With some planning, this series might well be used by groups of congregations which share pastors and pulpits for special Lenten services.

Starkly dramatic **bulletins** may be ordered with service printed, or blank. Samples of all the pre-printed bulletins are included in the kit, along with **music** for the included hymns, **homilies** and **prayers** for each service. Cost for the complete kit **$25.95.** Order Code **WL-1.** *For a sample only, Order Code XW-L.*

Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **WL-P**, 50 for each of seven weeks, Cost: **$34**, 100 for each of seven weeks, Cost: **$52**, 200 for each of seven weeks, Cost: **$92**.

Blank bulletins Order Code **WL-2**, 50 for each of seven weeks **$25**, 100 for each of seven weeks **$45**, 200 for each of seven weeks **$82**.

PLUS, ADD THESE TWO HOLY WEEK SERVICES!

As an added feature, this series may be expanded with two more services which follow the same format.

Maundy Thursday: 'FOR YOU' - a service based on our Lord's Words of Institution, includes special hymned stanzas to serve as the preface and thanksgiving in the celebration of Holy Communion. Order Code **WL-3**. Additional printed bulletins Order Code **WL-A**. Blank bulletin Order Code **B-32.**

Easter: 'ALLELUIA!' - translates somber elements of other services in this series into a major-key celebration of our Lord's resurrection. A new hymn (to a familiar tune), *Now Let the Glorious News Be Heard,* recalls the Seven Last Words, now fulfilled in victory. Order code **WL-4**. Additional printed bulletins Order Code **WL-B**. Blank bulletin Order Code **B-34**.

Services cost **$5.95** each or order both for **$10.95.** Order Code **WL-8**. Kit includes music, prayers, homily & bulletin sample.

Printed bulletins for either of these services cost **$5.50**/50, **$9.90**/100. Extra blank bulletins cost **$4**/50, **$7.90**/100, **$32**/500.

PUBLICIZE WITH A SPECIAL BULLETIN INSERT!

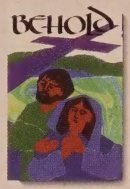
Order Code **WL-7** Cost **$5**/100, **$20**/500.

SEND SERVICES HOME—WITH PRAYER CARDS!

Please notice the set of seven **Lenten Prayer Cards** which incorporate illustrations and prayers from this series. Hand them out at each service, or use them to publicize midweek services by handing them out the previous weekend. Order **sets of all seven cards**, Order Code **WL-L**, Cost **$17.50**/50, **$29**/100, **$120**/500, **$229**/1000. Or order the cards separately, specifying the Order Codes printed to the right, Cost **$4**/50, **$6**/100, **$25**/500, **$40**/1000.

Ash Wednesday Forgive

Week 2 Paradise


Week 3 Behold

Week 4 Forsaken

Week 5 Thirst

Week 6 Finished

Maundy Thursday For You

Good Friday Hands

Easter Sunday Alleluia

Bulletin Insert (**WL-7**)

WL-D

WL-E

WL-F

WL-G

WL-H

WL-J

WL-K
(Good Friday)

Special Prayer Cards
Great Lenten Reminders for the Home

LENTEN WEEKLY SERIES
CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH
(800) 325-9414 8-5 WEEKDAYS 8-2 SATURDAYS

GOD'S LOVE BREAKS THROUGH!

"God uses for his glory those people and things that are most perfectly broken." The sermons in this six-part Lenten series take *brokenness* seriously—both the kinds of brokenness in which folks find themselves because of sin, and the kind of brokenness which God requires for true repentance. Week by week worshippers are assured that **God's Love Breaks Through!**

• **When Hearts Are Broken Tearfully**—based on Psalm 51 • **When Christian Love and Care Break Forth**—as depicted in a bottle of ointment broken for Jesus • **When Pride Is Shattered Shamefully**—Peter and the rooster • **When Human Strength Cannot Avail**—at Gethsemane • **When Other Answers Fail and Fall**—Pontius Pilate and Judas • **Where Lives Are Broken Helplessly—**the two thieves.

Pastors and parishes participating in **Lenten pulpit exchanges** will notice that once the first service ("Broken Hearts") is done in each pastor's home congregation, the others may be presented in any order.

Full-color bulletin covers depict each week's theme. **Bulletins** may be ordered blank or with pre-printed order of service. **The kit** includes homilies, prayers, and music for all included hymns, as well as samples of all the pre-printed bulletins. Purchase of the series grants permission to reproduce and/or adapt any of the service materials for local use.

A UNIQUE TAKE-HOME REMINDER!

A unique optional feature offered with this series is an 8 1/2" x 11" **Table Top Triptych** which may be distributed at the first service. Its "broken heart" design (the theme of the first service) becomes the background for **five stickers** to be distributed at the remaining services.

Cost for the complete kit **$25.95**. Order Code **GB-1**. *For a sample only, Order Code XG-B.*

Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **GB-P**, 50 for each of six weeks **$29**, 100 for each of six weeks **$48**, 200 for each of six weeks **$80**.
Blank bulletins Order Code **GB-2**, 50 for each of six weeks **$22**, 100 for each of six weeks **$38**, 200 for each of six weeks **$70**.
Cost for the Triptych and sticker sets 1-99/**$.39**, 100+/**$.36**. Code **GB-L**.

TRIPTYCH AND STICKERS

Those who desire may augment this series with **two more services** that continue the "God's Love Breaks Through!" format and theme:

The **Maundy Thursday** service speaks of "Blood Outpoured and Body Broken" and includes an order of Holy Communion. Order Code **GB-3**. Additional printed bulletins Code **GB-A**. Blank bulletin Order Code **GB-C**.

The **Good Friday** service sees the curtain in the temple torn in two as Christ is crucified: "The Way Is Fully Open Now!" Code **GB-4**. Additional printed bulletins Order Code **GB-B**. Blank bulletin Order Code **GB-D**.

Services cost **$5.95** each or order both for **$10.95**. Order Code **GB-6**. Kit includes music, prayers, homily and bulletin sample.

Printed bulletins for either of these two services cost **$5.50**/50, **$9.90**/100. Extra blank bulletins cost **$4**/50, **$7.90**/100, **$32**/500.

A **Bulletin Insert** to publicize the services is also available. Order Code **GB-7**, Cost **$5**/100, **$20**/500.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

Here is a series of services that takes the time to consider seriously our Lord's humanity, the human body in which he wrought our salvation. Week by week, responsive calls to worship, Scripture readings, hymn stanzas, and prayers invite congregation members to focus their attention on:

- the feet of Christ
- the hands of Christ
- the ears of Christ
- the eyes of Christ
- the mouth of Christ
- the heart of Christ

Homilies on these topics, rich in biblical references, are scripted in such a way that they may be offered by two persons as dialog sermons—or by a single preacher.

Full-color **bulletin covers** feature stained glass art treasures. Bulletins may be ordered with order of service printed, or with inside pages and back cover blank. Purchase of the kit grants permission to reproduce and/or adapt any of the service materials.

Pastors and parishes participating in **Lenten pulpit exchanges** will notice that the six services may be offered in any order. A pastor (or team) from each congregation could present its assigned service in neighboring churches on a rotating schedule.

Along with a full set of scripts and music for the theme hymn, the kit includes samples of all six **pre-printed bulletins.** These bulletins contain a detailed order of service, complete with responsive opening dialog, psalmody, prayers, and listed Scriptures. **Notes for Worship Leaders** include hymn suggestions and more.

Cost for the kit **$24.95** Order Code **BD-1**. *For a sample only, Order Code XB-D.*

Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **BD-P**, 50 for each of six weeks **$29**, 100 for each of six weeks **$48**, 200 for each of six weeks **$80**.

Blank bulletins Order Code **BD-2**, 50 for each of six weeks **$22**, 100 for each of six weeks **$38**, 200 for each of six weeks **$70**.

As an added feature, those who so desire may continue this series with **three more services**:

Maundy Thursday: *The Blood of Christ* (with emphasis on Holy Communion) service Order Code **BD-3**, printed bulletin Order Code **BD-A,** blank bulletin Order Code **BD-X**

Good Friday: *The Body of Christ* (a close look at Christ's crucifixion) service Order Code **BD-4**, printed bulletin Order Code **BD-B,** blank bulletin Order Code **BD-Y**

Easter: *The Risen Body of Christ* (series summary: "You are the body of Christ!") service Code **BD-5**, printed bulletin Order Code **BD-C,** blank bulletin Order Code **BD-Z**

Services cost **$5.95** each or order all three for **$15.95** Order Code **BD-6**. Each service includes leader's guide, pre-printed bulletin sample, music and sermon.

Extra printed bulletins cost: **$5.50**/50, **$9.90**/100.
Extra blank bulletins cost: **$4**/50, **$7.90**/100, **$32**/500.

A **bulletin insert** to publicize the services is also available. Order Code **BD-7**, 100/**$5**, 500/**$20**.

THE HILLS OF LENT

*For a sample, Order Code **XH-L***

By means of hymns and dramatic homilies, the congregation is led on a biblically chronological journey to "mountaintop experiences" which all focus on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

• At **Mount Moriah** Abraham's faith is tested and strengthened • At **Mount Sinai** Moses and the Israelites receive the word of God • At **Mount Carmel** Elijah calls for faith and faithfulness • Jesus joins the faithful in worship at **Mount Zion** • On **Mount Olivet** Jesus assures us that we too are the children of God • At **Mount Calvary** we view "God's own sacrifice complete" (This service may be used for Holy Week).

Services begin with the "Psalms of Ascent." Dramatic homilies involve a narrator and as many as four other readers. The congregation participates in the homilies with the singing of successive stanzas of *Unto the Hills*. Musical notations for the organist are provided to add to the drama of the presentations.

Each kit includes: sermon scripts, Worship Leader's Guide, Scripture readings, samples of each of the pre-printed bulletins and bulletin insert. Cost for the complete kit **$24.95** Order Code **HL-1**.

Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **HL-P**, 50 for each of six weeks **$29** 100 for each of six weeks **$48**, 200 for each of six weeks **$80**. **Blank bulletins** Order Code **HL-2**, 50 for each of six weeks **$22**, 100 for each of six weeks **$38**, 200 for each of six weeks **$70**.

A bulletin insert to publicize the services is also available. Order Code **HL-7**, 100/**$5**, 500/**$20**.

OVERHEARD: CONVERSATIONS BY THE CROSS

Did various people who were involved in our Lord's Passion ever have an opportunity to talk with one another about it? People like • **Malchus & Mark • Barabbas & Caiaphas • Pilate and his wife • Simon & the centurion • Mary & John • the two thieves**.

Each audio drama in this series begins with a sermonic introduction to set the scene; a sermonic conclusion then comments and draws appropriate points. All these items are included in the reading scripts.

Each kit also includes a professionally produced **cassette tape** to help the congregation's actors "get the feel" for their parts. This tape may also be offered to a local radio station as a community service, or used by other groups in the parish. Cost for the complete kit **$24.95** Order Code **OH-1**. *Sample only, Order Code **XO-H.***

Pre-printed bulletins Code **OH-P**, 50 for each of six weeks **$29**, 100 for each of six weeks **$48**, 200 for each of six weeks **$80**. **Blank Bulletins** Code **OH-2**, 50 for each of six weeks **$22**, 100 for each of six weeks **$38**, 200 for each of six weeks **$70**.

A bulletin insert to publicize the services is also available. Order Code **OH-7**, 100/**$5**, 500/**$20**.

THUS IT IS WRITTEN

By means of "first person" homilies (which may be offered by the pastor or by three different members of the congregation, each serving for two consecutive weeks), this Lenten series allows Mark, Luke, and John to tell—in person!—why they wrote about our Lord's Passion the way they did.

Thus, in the first service, "Mark" describes his account of **Gethsemane**; in the second service he discusses the **crucifixion**. In the second pair of services, "Luke" covers the same two incidents from his point of view; and in the last two homilies, "John" explains his particular emphases.

The **six worship folders** for these services feature full-color original cover artwork. The *Gospel reading* for each week is printed on the back page. **Pre-printed orders of service** on the inside pages include an opening Responsive Dialog drawn from the writings of the week's "guest evangelist," suggested Scriptures, responsive psalmody, and a series theme hymn.

Samples of all six are included in the kit. Cost for the complete kit **$24.95** Order Code **WT-1**. *For sample only, Order Code **XW-T.***

Pre-printed bulletins order code **WT-P**, 50 for each of six weeks **$29**, 100 for each of six weeks **$48**, 200 for each of six weeks **$80**. **Blank bulletins** Order Code **WT-2**, 50 for each of six weeks **$22**, 100 for each of six weeks **$38**, 200 for each of six weeks **$70**.

A bulletin insert to publicize the services is also available. Order Code **WT-7**, 100/**$5**, 500/**$20**.

CROSS EXAMINATIONS

Seven services—one for each week of Lent and a final Holy Week summary presentation for either Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, or even Easter sunrise.

With scripts in hand, two participants each week begin at lectern and pulpit and then move about the chancel, assuming the roles of ancient characters (like Annas and Caiaphas, Pontius Pilate, Peter and Mark, St. Paul and Cyprian of Carthage) as well as modern ones (a reporter, a TV talk show host, a psychologist and an athletic coach, two businessmen at lunch, a busy dentist) as they deal with **the meaning of the Cross** in daily life, then and now.

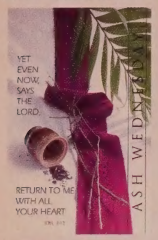
Each kit includes sermon/drama scripts, samples of each of the seven bulletins and the publicity insert, and *Notes for Worship Leaders* which include directions for presenting the dialogs, as well as suggested hymns, Scriptures and prayers. Cost for the kit **$24.95** Order Code **CM-1**. *Sample only, Order Code **XC-M.***

Pre-printed bulletins Order Code **CM-P**, 50 for each of 7 weeks **$29**, 100 for each of 7 weeks **$49**, 200 for each of 7 weeks **$92**. **Blank bulletins** Order Code **CM-2**, 50 for each of 7 weeks **$24**, 100 for each of 7 weeks **$44**, 200 for each of 7 weeks **$82**

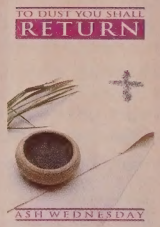
A bulletin insert to publicize the services is also available. Order Code **CM-7**, 100/**$5**, 500/**$20**.

LENTEN BULLETINS

ASH WEDNESDAY



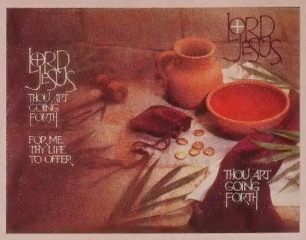
2-AA (8.5x11)
2-FU (8.5x14)



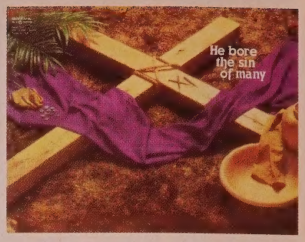
H-15 (8.5x11)
M-15 (8.5x14)

F-72 (8.5x11)
F-73 (8.5x14)

GENERAL LENT



2-CS (full view 8.5x11)
2-CT (not full view 8.5x11)

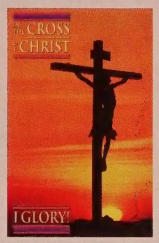


2-FP (full view 8.5x11)

PALM SUNDAY

2-CU (8.5x11)
2-FM (8.5x14)

2-CW (8.5x11)
2-CX (8.5x14)



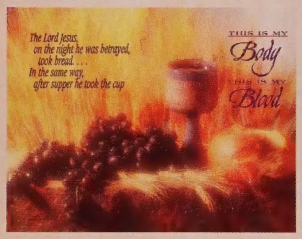
LU-1 (8.5x11)
LU-2 (8.5x14)

2-CY (8.5x11)
2-CZ (8.5x14)

2-DA (full view 8.5x11)
2-DB (not full view 8.5x14)

2-FS (8.5x11)
2-FT (8.5x14)

MAUNDY THURSDAY



E-35 (full view 8.5x11)

2-DC (full view 8.5x11)

2-DD (8.5x11)
2-DE (8.5x14)

2-DF (8.5x11)
2-DG (8.5x14)

MT-1 (8.5x11)

GOOD FRIDAY

2-DH (full view 8.5x11)
2-DJ (not full view 8.5x14)

2-DK (8.5x11)

2-DL (8.5x11)

JC-2 (8.5x11)

LY-J (8.5x11)
LY-K (8.5x14)

NEW COORDINATED LENTEN SERIES

2-DM (8.5x11)
2-DN (8.5x14)

2-DO (8.5x11)
2-DP (8.5x14)

2-DR (8.5x11)
2-DS (8.5x14)

2-DT (8.5x11)
2-DU (8.5x14)

2-FN (8.5x11)
2-DW (8.5x14)

2-DX (8.5x11)
2-DY (8.5x14)

BULLETINS FOR HOLY WEEK, EASTER AND BEYOND

PALM SUNDAY

2-DZ (8.5x11)
2-EA (8.5x14)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

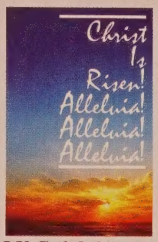
2-EB (8.5x11)
2-EC (8.5x14)

GOOD FRIDAY

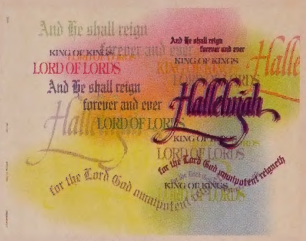
2-ED (8.5x11)
2-EE (8.5x14)

EASTER

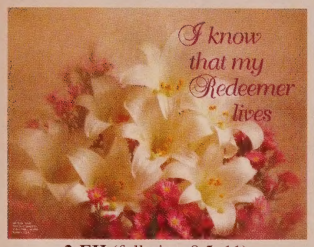
2-EF (8.5x11)
2-EG (8.5x14)



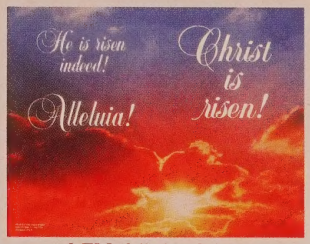
LY-G (8.5x11)
LY-H (8.5x14)



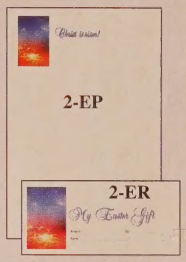
A-62 (full view 8.5x11)
A-63 (not full view 8.5x14)



2-EH (full view 8.5x11)
2-EJ (not full view 8.5x11)



2-EM (full view 8.5x11)
2-EN (not full view 8.5x11)



A-90 (8.5x11)
A-91 (8.5x14)

2-ES (8.5x11)
2-ET (8.5x14)

2-EW (8.5x11)

2-EZ (8.5x11)

2-FC (8.5x11)
2-FD (8.5x14)

Cost for Bulletin Resources

8.5x11 Bulletins **$7.90**/100, **$32**/500, **$53**/1000

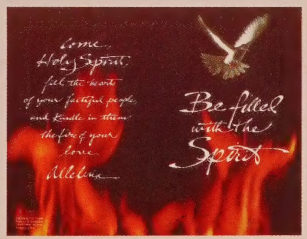
8.5x14 Bulletins .. **$8.75**/100, **$35**/500, **$59.50**/1000 (as available)

8.5x11 Letterhead **$7.90**/100, **$32**/500, **$53**/1000

Contribution Envelopes **$7**/100, **$29**/500, **$50**/1000

Window Envelopes for Letterhead **$5.50**/100, **$23**/500, **$39**/1000

2-FE (8.5x11)
2-FF (8.5x14)



N-94 (full view 8.5x11)

E-26 (8.5x11)

CONFIRMATION

2-FG (8.5x11)
2-FH (8.5x14)

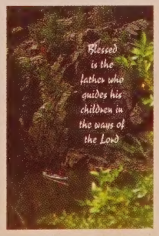
1ST COMMUNION

N-93 (8.5x11)
2-FW (8.5x14)

MOTHER'S DAY

2-FJ (8.5x11)

FATHER'S DAY

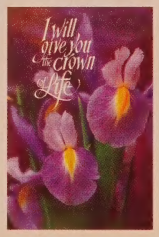


E-29 (8.5x11)
E-30 (8.5x14)

GRADUATION

2-FK (8.5x11)
2-FL (8.5x14)

FUNERAL



2-FR (8.5x11)

BARGAIN BULLETINS

Bargain Bulletins (large and regular sizes), Letterhead, and Offering Envelopes—at **$4.15** per hundred, a 45% savings. First-rate and colorful, we do not have sufficient stock to offer them as our regular bulletins. Great as extra bulletins or covers for other publications. You pick the **category**, we pick the **bulletin cover**, providing you the quantity you need. Great prices!

Product	*Order Code*
Lent Bulletins (8.5x11)	LB-T
Lent Fullview Bulletins (8.5x11)	LB-F
Lent Bulletins Large (8.5x14)	LB-X
Lent Letterhead	LB-L
Lent Offering Envelopes	LB-O
Palm Sun. Bulletins (8.5x11)	PB-T
Palm Sun. Fullview Bull. (8.5x11)	PB-F
Palm Sun. Bulletins (8.5x14)	PB-X
Maundy Thur. Bulletins (8.5x11)	MB-T
Maundy Thur. Fullview (8.5x11)	MB-F
Maundy Thur. Bulletins (8.5x14)	MB-X
Good Friday Bulletins (8.5x11)	GB-T
Good Friday Fullview (8.5x11)	GB-F
Good Friday Bulletins (8.5x14)	GB-X
Easter Bulletins (8.5x11)	EB-T
Easter Fullview Bulletins (8.5x11)	EB-F
Easter Bulletins Large (8.5x14)	EB-X
Easter Letterhead	EB-L
Easter Offering Envelopes	EB-O
Pentecost Bulletins (8.5x11)	BB-P
Pentecost Bulletins (8.5x14)	BB-Z
Mother's Day Bulletins (8.5x11)	BB-M
Mother's Day Bulletins (8.5x14)	BB-N
Father's Day Bulletins (8.5x11)	BB-F
Father's Day Bulletins (8.5x14)	BB-G

BARGAIN LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

BLESSED ARE THEY...

Lenten Meditations Based on the Beatitudes

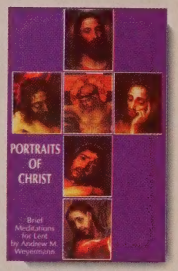
What more fruitful source of Lenten meditation, prayer and practice than the Beatitudes—those hard sayings of Jesus that are at the heart of the Gospel? These 40 daily devotions by Paul Bauermeister reflect on such themes as *poverty of spirit, meekness, mourning, mercy, longing for righteousness* and *peacemaking.* We find that, beside providing ideals for Christian behavior, the Beatitudes are blessings from God, bringing true and lasting human happiness. This booklet is sure to help readers make the most of their Lenten journey. Order code **BA-1**, Cost: **$.33**

A LENTEN DICTIONARY

Something different for daily Lenten devotions, **A Lenten Dictionary** focuses on 40 Lenten words, including *forgiveness, renewal, repentance, crucifixion* and *redemption.* Here Pastor Donald Hinchey offers a way to focus on a valuable vocabulary for the heart and life of any Christian. This 32-page booklet also includes selected Bible readings and prayers for each Lenten word. Order code **LD-1**, Cost: **$.33**

PORTRAITS OF CHRIST

This colorfully illustrated book of lenten devotions is written by Andrew M. Weyermann, one of Creative Communication's most popular writers. Its 40 pages present portraits of Christ for each day in Lent—as *Revealing Word, Forgiving Friend, Freeing Lord, Reconciling Mediator, Adopting Son,* and *Renewing Presence.* Every image finds a deeper meaning as Weyermann relates them to the important issues of daily life. All images ultimately reveal the power of God's love for all, which enables us to trust and love. Order code **AD-1**, Cost: **$.33**



TURN NOT FROM HIS GRIEFS AWAY

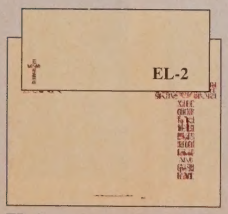
A Scriptural Journey to the Cross

Lent is a time of preparation, and how better to prepare than to relive the Savior's ministry through Scripture readings for each day of Lent? **Turn Not From His Griefs Away** provides a convenient way to review our Lord's career, focusing mainly on the Gospels, and adding commentary by the great prophet of the Savior, Isaiah. Brief comments orient the reader to each day's selection; thought-provoking questions and a prayer conclude the day's meditation. Pocket-size with full color cover. Order Code **MW-Z**, Cost: **$.33** each in any quantity.

BARGAIN PASTORAL EPISTLE LETTERHEAD

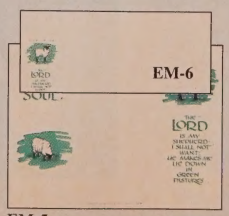
LIMITED QUANTITIES!

Pastoral Epistle Letterhead—This unique parish resource provides stock sheets that can be used for a variety of parish messages. They also work perfectly for personal and special notes from the clergy. Sold in 50s and shipped flat, on special laid stock—ideal for mimeograph or offset. Matching envelopes can also be ordered. **Letterhead** Cost: **$5**/100, **$22**/500, **$40**/1000; **Envelope** Cost: **$5**/100, **$22**/500, **$40**/1000



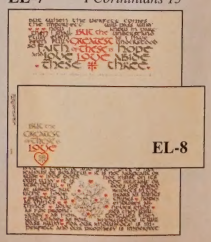
EL-1 *Aaronic Benediction*

EL-3 *Prayer of St. Francis*

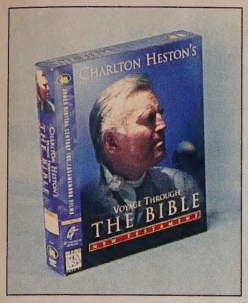


EM-5 *Psalm 23*

EL-7 *1 Corinthians 13*

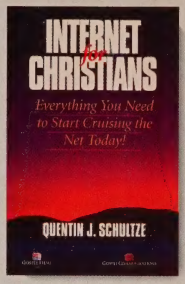


CHRISTIAN COMPUTER SOFTWARE FOR CHURCH & HOME



VOYAGE THROUGH THE BIBLE

Charlton Heston is your guide on a multimedia tour of the Bible's most prominent and sacred sites, from Egypt and Damascus to Galilee and the Desert of Sinai. *The Old Testament:* From Genesis to Moses — featuring stories of the Creation, the Garden of Eden, Cain and Abel, the Fall, the Exodus, and more. *The New Testament:* Life and Passion of Jesus – featuring stories from the Four Gospels. Charlton Heston's Voyage Through the Bible is a unique document of our time, produced with a richness in film, art, and music that will enlighten audiences of all ages. System requirements: Mac (Mac II, Centris, Quadra, or Power Mac, System 7.1, 8MB RAM, 2X CD-ROM), Windows (486 processor recommended, Microsoft Windows 3.1, 16-bit Windows color display, 16-bit sound card, 2X CD-ROM drive). Order Codes: Old Testament: **IB-C** (MAC/IBM), New Testament **MA-C** (MAC/IBM) Cost: **$49.95**/1, Special Bundle Price **$89.99.**



INTERNET FOR CHRISTIANS

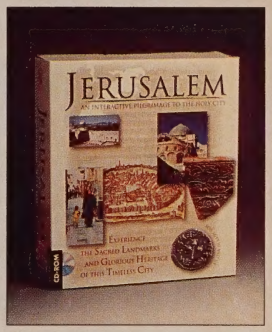
Internet for Christians is a practical guide to help Christians get on and safely cruise the worldwide computer network. Written by Quentin Schultze, author, media expert and special coordinator for Gospel Communications Network, this book will help you get the most from today's most significant new medium. Order Code: **MA-F** Cost: **$12.95**/1-4, **$11.49**/5+.

DAY-TIMER ORGANIZER™

Day-Timer Organizer™ software combines the ease and take-it-with-you convenience of your paper-based organizer with the power of your computer. *Day-Timer Organizer*™ helps you manage your schedule, find and use information more effectively, and automate your record keeping — then prints out pages to fit most popular paper organizer sizes. System requirements: IBM (requires an IBM-compatible 386 or higher; Windows 3.1 or higher; 4 MB free hard disk space recommended; a printer fully supported by Windows), MAC (Requires 2 MB of available RAM ; System 7.0 or higher; color or gray scale capable Macintosh). Order Code: **IB-E** (IBM), **MA-E** (MAC); Cost: **$79.95**.

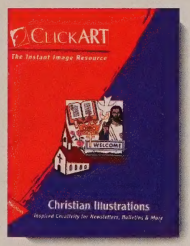
JERUSALEM

This educational multimedia CD-ROM allows users to retrace 3,000 years of the Holy City's glorious history, from the New Testament to today. *Jerusalem* is packed with hundreds of photographs, video and audio clips, animation, maps, and biographical notes. System requirements: IBM (486, 25 MHz processor or better, 4M RAM, color monitor with 256 colors and 640 x 480 resolution, 2X CD-ROM, Windows 3.1 or later), MAC (Mac LCIII, Performa or better, 8MB of RAM or greater, 2.5MB free RAM, 13" color monitor with 256 colors, 2X CD-ROM, System 7.0 or later). Code: **MA-G** (Mac or IBM); Cost **$39.95**.

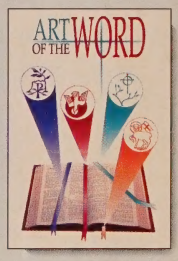


RELIGIOUS CLICKART

This clip art bundle includes over 500 images. Included in this package are 4 titles from ClickArt: Christian Illustrations, Church Bulletins & Newsletters, Sunday School & Bible Studies, and Christian Holidays. ClickArt images work with virtually every Macintosh and Windows application that handles graphics. You can easily convert images from one format to another—so your images keep working, even when you change applications. Code: **IB-7** for IBM and **MA-7** for MAC; Cost: **$69.95**



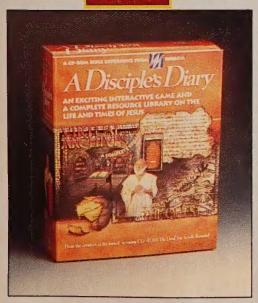
PLEASE NOTE: COMPUTER SOFTWARE IS NOT RETURNABLE.



ART OF THE WORD

This Clip Art package includes 300 Christian symbols and pictures to help dress-up your newsletters and bulletins. Requirements: IBM or compatible or Macintosh with 640K RAM, graphic capabilities and printer. Order Code: **MA-B** for Mac and **IB-B** for IBM; Cost: **$49.95**

NEW THIS YEAR!

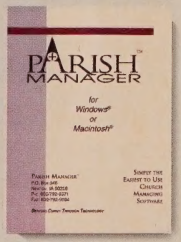


A DISCIPLE'S DIARY

A Disciple's Diary is an interactive adventure that allows users to explore the world of the gospels by delving into archives. Users can view animated satellite photography, high-resolutions still photos, beautiful artwork, or almost 60 videos. There's even a three-dimensional tour of typical homes that demonstrates how people lived during this time. Over 100 related articles are available, or users can choose to read the Bible — the full text of the RSV is included. System requirements: IBM (486SX, 33 MHz processor or better, 8M RAM (operates on 4M), 5M virtual memory, SVGA 640 x 480 x 256 graphics card with compatible monitor, mouse or compatible pointer, 2X CD-ROM, Sound blaster compatible audio board, Windows 3.1 or later), MAC (68030, 25 MHz processor or better, 8M RAM (operates on 4M), 13" monitor or better, 8-bit color support, 2X CD-ROM, System 7.1 or later). Order Code: **IB-G** (Mac or IBM); Cost: **$49.95**.

PARISH MANAGER

For Microsoft Windows™ or Macintosh, this is a dynamic tool that will save time in the church office by automating routine tasks. Some of the features include: prints congregational directory with the click of a button, prints mailing labels, creates personalized letters, lists parish groups and children by grades to help in ordering supplies, calendar feature, birthday and anniversary lists, free technical support for 90 days, tutorial, financial secretary's report, member contribution reports and much more. This program is designed for the user and is ideal for congregations up to 1,800 members. Code **MA-1** for Mac or **IB-1** for IBM-Windows; Cost : **$329.00** To order **sample disk** please request **MA-X** for Mac or **IB-X** for IBM-Windows™; Cost: **$10.00** (coupon for $15.00 off the purchase of Parish Manager is enclosed in the sample packet). Requirements: IBM—minimum required 386/SX or greater 3MB RAM, Windows 3.0 or higher, mouse. Mac: Mac plus or higher System 6.0 requires 1MB RAM, System 7.0 2 MB RAM (4 MB recommended), System 7 recommended.



THE GREAT BIBLE DISCOVERY SERIES

Learning the Bible becomes an exciting adventure. Favorite characters and narratives come alive through storybook animation and a straightforward translation of Scripture. A live-action "guide" leads the way through each story by providing clues, asking questions, offering commentary to help viewers understand the Bible more clearly. Designed as a documentary for young Christians, the Great Bible Discovery Series is a wonderful **learning tool** for home or classroom.

This **new approach** teaches young people biblical facts *and* provides a context to appreciate the meaning of these facts in one's whole life.

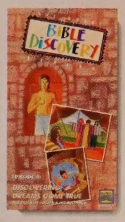
- **A Bible-learning video that's faithful to Scripture**
- **Ideal for young people ages 6-11**
- **Perfect for Sunday School, Bible class, classroom teaching**
- **An interactive quiz promotes learning**

Discovering The Empty Tomb: The Story Of Easter follows Jesus from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his glorious resurrection on Easter morning. Original artwork portrays the drama of Christ's Passion and the earth-shaking excitement of his resurrection. (Approx. 40 min., VHS) Code **Y-31** Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus points!***

New!

Discovering the Way Out: The Story of the Passover follows the Israelite people as they prepare for the greatest escape in history. From the burning bush to the crossing of the Red Sea, God calls Moses to lead the way to freedom. In the end, viewers will discover that God still provides freedom for those who want to follow. (Approx. 30 min., VHS) Code **Y-34** Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus points!***

New!



Discovering Dreams Come True: The Story of Joseph and his Brothers follows the remarkable life of Joseph, whose forgiveness and faith in God saved his sometimes jealous family. In the end, viewers will discover the wonderful news that God has a dream come true in store for them too. (Approx. 30 min., VHS) Code **Y-35** Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus points!***

SPECIAL OFFER ON THE GREAT BIBLE DISCOVERY SERIES!

ORDER ANY VIDEO IN THE SERIES AND GET EITHER EASTER IS OR FREEDOM IS FOR ONLY $3.95 (RETAIL $12.95)

ORDER ANY TWO VIDEOS IN THE SERIES AND GET EITHER EASTER IS OR FREEDOM IS ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Easter Is. Frustrated by his schoolwork, Benji is mean to his dog, Waldo, who runs away. Through this temporary loss, Easter's meaning becomes clearer to Benji. Retail price $12.95 Code **LT-X**

Freedom Is. Benji and his dog, Waldo, dream they are back in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. Benji learns about true freedom and keeping the spirit of freedom alive. Retail price $12.95 Code **LC-X**

Also available in the Great Bible Discovery *series:*

Cost: **$14.95 each**
3 bonus points!

Covenant Discovery: The Story of Abraham tells the story of God's promise to Abraham and Abraham's faith. (30 min., VHS) Code **Y-33**

Discovering The Baby King: The Story of Christmas helps young people appreciate and understand the biblical story of Jesus' birth. (30 min. VHS) Code **Y-32**

THE STORY OF EASTER

New!

This animated episode from *The Beginner's Bible Series* features memorable songs and vivid animation to tell the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his death and the wonder of his resurrection. (30 min., VHS) Order Code **Q-56** Cost: **$14.95**
3 bonus points!
Also available:
The Story Of The Nativity (30 min., VHS) Code **Y-68 Cost: $14.95** ***3 bonus points!***

ORDER BOTH FOR $24.95 CODE Q-57
5 BONUS POINTS!

THE RESURRECTION CELEBRATION

THE DONUT MAN FROM INTEGRITY MUSIC RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 2-8

3 bonus points each!

Join the Donut Man, Duncan, and the kids from the Donut Repair Club on their lively adventures as they sing, laugh, and have a lot of fun. This episode presents the loss of a loved one in the context of the biblical story of Jesus' resurrection. (30 min., VHS) Code **S-89** Cost: **$14.95**
3 bonus points!

Also available:
The Best Present Of All presents a play about the first Christmas with traditional carols as well as festive new songs. (30 min., VHS) Code **S-88** Cost: **$14.95**
At The Zoo tells of God's care for all of creation (30 min., VHS) Code **S-90** Cost: **$14.95**
Camp Harmony shows how kids can get along with one another–and have fun. (30 min., VHS) Code **S-91** Cost: **$14.95**

RECEIVE 13-VOLUME SET OF 'CHILDREN'S HEROES OF THE BIBLE' ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Here's How the 'Bonus Points' Plan Will Work:

Receive **bonus points** for every video you purchase from Creative Communications for the Parish. For every 10 bonus points earned, you can pick out **free** one of the 13 episodes of "Children's Heroes of the Bible." *Please note: bonus points must be used at time of purchase; they do not carry over to future orders.*

Purchase additional "Children's Heroes" episodes at discounts, or receive the entire set **free** through the bonus point system. When you place your video order, the order taker will tell you how many bonus points you have earned. Simply select a free tape for every 10 points, and it will be included in your order.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS ON 'CHILDREN'S HEROES OF THE BIBLE' SERIES

This low-cost 13-volume series is a wonderful way to introduce children to the great people, events, teachings and stories of the Old and New Testaments. Children love to watch these biblically based stories again and again. (approx. 23 min.) Cost **$7.95 each**

ORDER ANY 3 FOR $19.95 CODE S-56
ORDER ENTIRE SERIES, ONLY $79.95 CODE S-55

OLD TESTAMENT

The Story of Joseph Order Code **S-39**
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The Story of Elijah Order Code **S-42**
The Story of Jeremiah Code **S-43**
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NEW TESTAMENT **Special Price* **$5.95**

Jesus' Death and Resurrection Code **S-8L***
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Jesus Teaches and Calls Disciples Code **S-33**
Jesus Heals and Works Miracles Code **S-34**
Jesus' Struggles and Opponents Code **S-35**
Apostles and the Early Church Code **S-37**
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'ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY' VIDEO SERIES

New!

Animated series for all ages of young people from the makers of *McGee and Me* (30 min. VHS) Cost: **$14.99 ea.** ***3 bonus points each!***

Someone To Watch Over Me. Dylan and Jesse enjoy an imaginary safari until a computer glitch creates a series of bizarre events that threaten Dylan's life in this tale of faith, courage and mystery. Code **U-15**

Also in the 'Adventures In Odyssey' series:

Go West Young Man. Courage and integrity is tested in this time-travel adventure. Code **R-98**

Electric Christmas. A yard-decorating contest leads to a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. Code **R-97**

Shadow of a Doubt. A valuable lesson is learned about faithfulness and true friendship. Code **U-13**

A Flight to the Finish. This is an exciting adventure story about caring for others. Code **U-10**

The Knight Travellers. Time-travel helps a boy discover what is truly important. Code **U-11**

A Fine Feathered Frenzy. A runaway lawn mower and an escaped parrot show the importance of taking responsibility for one's actions. Code **U-12**

Star Quest. Giant robot and a TV show are part of a story about jealousy and friendship. Code **U-68**

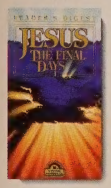
Once Upon An Avalanche. Kids stranded in Avalanche Canyon while sledding learn about kindness and brotherly love. Code **U-69**

ORDER ALL NINE 'ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY' EPISODES COST: $119.95 CODE U-14 15 BONUS POINTS!

JESUS AND HIS TIMES

$14.95 each ***3 bonus points***

This three-part series is based on the Gospel of Luke:

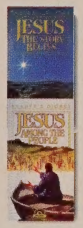


Jesus: The Final Days. Join Jesus at the Last Supper. Witness His betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane, His trial before Pontius Pilate. Despair with his followers at the crucifixion and rejoice at the events that followed. (55 min., VHS) Code **U-89**

Also Available:

Jesus: The Story Begins. Joseph and Mary make their way to Bethlehem. (61 min., VHS) Code **U-87**

Jesus: Among The People. Jesus teaches in the synagogues of Galilee. (57 min., VHS) Code **U-88**



ORDER ALL 3 FOR $39.95 CODE U-90 10 BONUS POINTS!

J.R.R. TOLKIEN'S TRILOGY

Cost: **$14.95 each** ***3 bonus points!*** *New Low Price!*

The Hobbit. Bilbo Baggins searches the enchanted world of Middle Earth for the Ring of Power. Voices include John Huston, Richard Boone & others. (76 min., VHS) Code **U-96**

Lord of the Rings. Meet Frodo the hobbit, Gandalf the wizard and the evil Sauron—they're all here in an exquisite feature fantasy. Not recommended for very young children. (133 min., VHS) Code **U-97**

Return of the King. As the Dark Lord Sauron tries to conquer all Middle Earth, Frodo and Sam struggle to defeat his forces. (96 min., VHS) Code **U-98**

ORDER ALL THREE IN TOLKIEN'S TRILOGY, ONLY $39.95 CODE U-99, 15 BONUS POINTS!

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

New Low Price!

This is a **live-action** portrayal of the classic spiritual allegory. (Each tape 165 min., VHS) **$14.95** each

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Aslan the lion-king leads the fight against the evil White Witch. Order Code **Q-11** ***3 bonus points!***

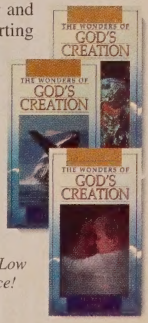
Prince Caspian & the Voyage of the Dawn Treader. The children return to Narnia to battle Prince Caspian's corrupt uncle. Order Code **Q-12** ***3 bonus points!***

The Silver Chair. Aslan the lion charges the children to embark on a perilous journey to retrieve the missing Prince Rilian. Code **Q-13** ***3 bonus points!***

GET ALL THREE, ONLY $39.95, CODE Q-14 10 BONUS POINTS!

THE WONDERS OF GOD'S CREATION

This three-video collection presents the beauty, wonder and miracle of God's creation in an unforgettable way, transporting the viewer from the farthest reaches of the universe to the smallest cell on the tip of a human finger to reveal the Creator's extraordinary design and plan. Spectacular photography and decades of research will unlock many of the mysteries of the universe and, in the process, give the viewer an even deeper appreciation of God's infinite power, wisdom and everlasting love. Includes Scripture reference guide.



Part I—**Planet Earth: Sanctuary of Life**

Part II—**The Animal Kingdom: Great Art Thy Works**

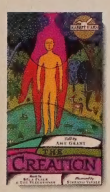
Part III— **Human Life: The Crown of Creation**

(3 tapes, 193 min., VHS) Code **R-18** Cost: **$39.95** *New Low Price!* ***10 bonus points!***

'RABBIT EARS' GREAT BIBLE SERIES FOR CHILDREN!

With Hollywood actors' narration, original soundtracks and fine illustrations, these videos reintroduce classic tales from the Bible. Rabbit Ears Production's innovative dissolve animation technique will entertain & educate the entire family.

(30 min., VHS) Cost: **$14.98 each** ***3 bonus points!***



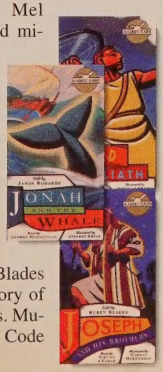
The Creation. Singer Amy Grant recounts the wondrous story of how God created the universe and gave life to Adam and Eve. Music by jazz trio Béla Fleck and the Flecktones captures the simple poetry of this timeless narrative. Code **Y-20**

The Savior Is Born. Academy Award nominee Morgan Freeman delivers a poignant retelling of the first Christmas according to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Code **Y-27**

David And Goliath. Mel Gibson tells how David miraculously defeats the Philistine giant Goliath. Music by Branford Marsalis. Code **Y-21**

Jonah And The Whale. Jason Robards tells this compelling adventure story of forgiveness and obedience. Code **Y-22**

Joseph And His Brothers. Actor Rubén Blades relates the matchless story of betrayal and forgiveness. Music by Strunz and Farah. Code **Y-23**

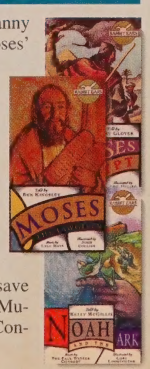


ORDER ANY THREE "GREATEST STORIES" FOR $39.95 ORDER CODE Y-28 5 BONUS POINTS!

Moses In Egypt. Actor Danny Glover tells the story of Moses' call from God. Joyous music by The Sounds of Blackness. Code **Y-24**

Moses The Lawgiver. Oscar winner Ben Kingsley tells the story of how Moses received the Ten Commandments. Code **Y-25**

Noah And The Ark. Kelly McGillis lovingly tells how Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. Music by The Paul Winter Consort. Code **Y-26**



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MORE GREAT VIDEOS FOR CHILDREN!

THE EASTER STORY

From the *Greatest Adventures* series of Bible stories by Hanna-Barbera, this video traces the events surrounding Jesus' resurrection. (30 min., VHS) Order Code **V-73** *(Spanish S-66)* Cost: **$9.95**
3 bonus points!

D&G: HAPPY EASTER

When Davey learns that Grandma has died, he becomes withdrawn. When Davey learns that he'll see Grandma again—and Jesus—his grief turns to joy. (30 min., VHS) Code **V-36** Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus pts.!***

EASTER IS

Frustrated by his schoolwork, Benji is mean to his dog, Waldo, who runs away. In his sadness, Benji learns a valuable lesson about Easter: in the end, Jesus did return (and so does Waldo). (25 min., VHS) Code **V-34** Cost: **$12.95** ***3 bonus pts.!***

THE MAGIC BOY'S EASTER

A boy with a bone disease, dreams of Jesus' healings. Upon awakening, he consents to surgery, knowing Jesus will never leave him. (24 min., VHS) Code **V-35** Cost: **$12.95** ***3 bonus points!***

THREE DAYS

This moving drama depicts what Jesus' disciples might have gone through during the three days between the crucifixion and the resurrection. (30 min., VHS) Order Code **V-37** *(Spanish Code S-12)* Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus points!***

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

From the entertaining and fully animated *Adventures in Character Building* series, this video tells children the unforgettable story of the true meaning of helping others. (25 min., VHS) Code **U-39** Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus points!***

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

Betrayed by his brothers, Joseph is sold into slavery and taken to Egypt, far from home. Part of the *Adventures in Character Building* series, this video teaches about love and forgiveness. (25 min., VHS) Code **U-40** Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus points!***

NOAH'S ARK

One of the greatest adventures of all time springs to life under the narration of James Earl Jones. For ages 3 to 11, this video is based on the award-winning book by Peter Spier. (27 min., VHS) Code **Q-73** Cost: **$14.99**
3 bonus points!

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

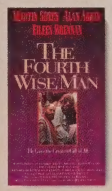
New!

This episode of the animated *In The Beginning* series recounts Moses' journey to the top of Mount Sinai where God reveals the laws of his covenant with Israel (30 min., VHS) Code **Y-83** Cost: **$11.95**
3 bonus points!

COLUMBUS

From Christopher Columbus' first voyage as a boy to his first step ashore in the Americas, this is the thrilling story of how one man's vision and courage united two continents. (30 min., VHS) Code **Q-61** Cost: **$19.95**
3 bonus points!

THE FOURTH WISE MAN

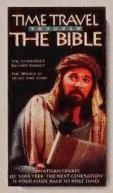


This is the gently comic tale of Artaban, a Magi who searches 33 years for Jesus, finally meeting him on Easter morning and finding peace. (72 min., VHS) Order Code **U-29** *(Spanish Code S-28)* Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus points!***

THE FIRST VALENTINE

Young Tess, a shy girl of 13, discovers a new meaning for love through an imaginative adventure. She meets up with Valentine, a 3rd century martyr, and his Christian friends. (24 min., VHS) Order Code **V-38** *(Spanish Code S-11)* Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus points!***

TIME TRAVEL THROUGH THE BIBLE

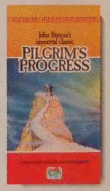


Jonathan Frakes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" stars in this "time machine" journey through the Old and New Testaments. (107 min., VHS) Code **Q-54** Cost: **$24.95** ***4 bonus points!***

FREEDOM IS

Benji and his dog, Waldo, dream they are back in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. In a meeting with Thomas Jefferson, Benji learns about true freedom and learning to keep the spirit of freedom alive. (30 min., VHS) Order Code **S-13** Cost: **$12.95** ***3 bonus points!***

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



This spectacularly colorful animated version of the John Bunyan classic tale of the Christian journey, has a powerful impact on young viewers. (95 min., VHS) Order Code **V-75** Cost: **$14.95**
3 bonus points!

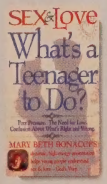
ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTH AND TEENS!

CHANGES AND CHOICES

Special Sale! Limited Time Only!

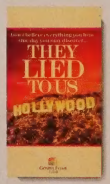
Designed for 11- to 13-year-olds, this program helps prepare youth for the physical and emotional changes and sexual choices they'll face throughout adolescence. Subjects include dating, going steady, breaking up, and treasuring your God-given sexuality. Program includes Leader's Guide and 15 student leaflets. (90 min., VHS) Code **Q-22** Cost: Retail $59.95 **Now $29.95** ***3 bonus points!***

SEX AND LOVE: WHAT'S A TEENAGER TO DO?



In a high-energy presentation on sex for teenagers, Mary Beth Bonacci shows that chastity is more than abstinence—it's about loving the right way. (71 min., VHS) Code **Y-60** Cost: **$19.95**
3 bonus points!

THEY LIED TO US



By examining the experience of several young people, this powerful video helps teens distinguish the truth from the lies told by movies, television and music. A great way to stimulate discussion in youth groups! (45 min., VHS) Order Code **Y-61** Cost: **$19.95** ***3 bonus points!***

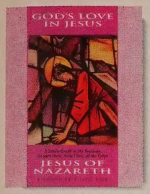
HANGED ON A TWISTED CROSS

New!

Ed Asner narrates the gripping documentary of the life of theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, executed by the Nazis just days before Germany's defeat in WW II. (120 min., VHS) Code **Q-19** Cost: **$24.95** ***3 bonus points!***

JESUS OF NAZARETH IN TWO FORMATS—BIBLE STUDY AND WORSHIP SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY



• **God's Love In Jesus of Nazareth** is a **6-part Lenten Bible study.** Included is a detailed Leader's Guide (paper, 40 pgs.), and 12 copies of student worksheets for each session. 25 minutes of video provide an integral part of each session in this exciting series. From Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his glorious resurrection, the video drama and genuine Bible study provide an ideal Lenten growth opportunity. Code **JV-3** Cost **$19.95.**

SAVE WITH A SPECIAL COMBINATION!

• **God's Love In Jesus of Nazareth Leader's Guide**, 12 copies of each session's study questions for participants plus complete 3-cassette *Jesus of Nazareth* video. Code **JV-5** Cost: **$59.95**

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

• **Six Lenten Worship Services** built around 25-minute episodes from *Jesus of Nazareth* use the video as the sermon. Colorful worship folders provide complete services with responsive readings, prayers, hymns and a Gospel lesson suited for each service. Perfect for a gathering at church or home. Each order includes free worship leader's notes. **Pre-printed bulletins** in sets of 50 for each of 6 sessions. Code **JV-P** Cost: **$29**; 100 for each session, **$48.**

Note: Churches which already have ***Jesus of Nazareth*** *need order only the study or worship materials.*

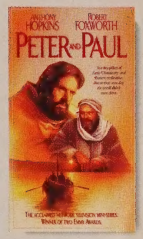
Jesus of Nazareth is a highly acclaimed film portrayal of the life of Christ by director Franco Zeffirelli. (3 VHS tapes, 371 min.) Code **V-45** Cost: **$44.95** ***10 bonus points!***

JESUS: LEGEND OR LORD?

This exciting journey back to the 1st century gives a glimpse of the world Jesus saw as he moved toward the cross. Internationally known historian and author Dr. Paul Maier presents a provocative 8-session series using history, archeology and geography. Includes a reproducible study guide for Bible study, small group ministry or community outreach. Each session is 20-25 minutes. (Approx. 180 min., 2 VHS tapes) Code **R-90** Cost **$79.99** ***10 bonus points!***

PETER AND PAUL

This epic network television mini-series brings to life the precarious existence of early Christianity. The new movement is beset by violent opposition from without and constant turmoil from within. Two key leaders emerge—Peter and Paul—who struggle to keep the faith alive. This dramatic presentation follows the pair, together and separately, through three epochal decades. Included are the stoning of Stephen, the road to Damascus, their encounter in Jerusalem, their conflicts over how the Word of Christ should be spread, Paul's travels to Asia Minor and Greece, Peter and Paul's clashes over Jewish law, and Peter's decision to follow in Paul's courageous footsteps. The drama concludes in Rome in approximately 64 A.D. with the beheading of Paul and the crucifixion of Peter under Emperor Nero. 2 tapes (194 min., VHS) Order Code **Y-65** Cost: **$49.95**. ***5 bonus points!***



Teacher's Study Guide provides the complete background preparation for leaders to conduct a 13-session study of *Peter and Paul* based on the Bible. Including reproducible student worksheets, this is an excellent resource for Sunday School, Bible study or small discussion groups.

Paper, 112 pages. Order Code **Y-66** Cost: **$19.95**

JESUS THEN AND NOW

Jesus Christ—carpenter from Nazareth, leader of disciples, victim of a plot, reported alive again three days later. Who was this man? What makes people follow him today? This **12-part video** series seeks to answer these questions. Programs are 20 minutes long. Includes a 28-page study/leader's guide. (2 tapes, 240 min., VHS) Code **V-39** Cost: **$29.95** ***5 bonus points!***

SPECIAL LENTEN EDITION!

6 programs from *Jesus Then and Now* Series: Temptation, Prayer, The Man, Opposition, Crucifixion and Resurrection. **Package includes:** one tape, Study /Leader's guide. Code **Q-16** Cost: **$24.95** ***4 bonus pts.!***

TRIAL & TESTIMONY OF THE EARLY CHURCH

These **6 half-hour video programs** answer the question, "How did the Early Church survive and spread?" The following topics are covered: **Foundations:** What happened to the 12 apostles? **Spread:** The Word was for all. How did they bring their message to the world? **Accusation:** Believers were subject to many charges, some outrageously false and others true. **Persecution:** The mightiest empire in history outlawed and persecuted them. Why? **Testimony:** A close-up look at heroes who paid with their lives rather than deny their faith. **Transition:** Constantine granted the Church legality and favor. Was this a bane or a blessing? Why did the Church succeed?

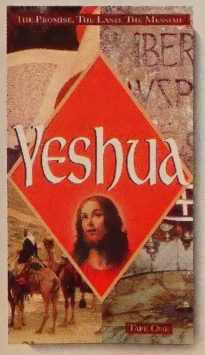
The complete package includes:

- 6- or 12-part curriculum
- full-color companion booklet
- film scripts
- leader's guide
- reproducible student worksheets

Order Code **S-76** Cost: **$99.95!** ***12 bonus points!***

YESHUA

New Low Price!



SMALL GROUP OR LARGE, LENT IS THE IDEAL TIME FOR BIBLE STUDY!

"Yeshua," the Hebrew name for Jesus, offers a fascinating new view of Jesus' life. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, this five-hour series reveals ancient customs with a clarity not afforded by most historical treatments. Now on **two tapes**, each with its own discussion guide.

Order Code **Q-85** Cost: **$39.95** ***5 bonus points!***

Part 1: **The Land and the Promise** begins in Ur of the Chaldees, the birthplace of Abraham, and ends with the Hebrews' return to a homeland soon taken over by Rome. Part 2: **The Promise Takes Root** begins with the angel's visit to Mary and proceeds through the presentation of Jesus in the temple.

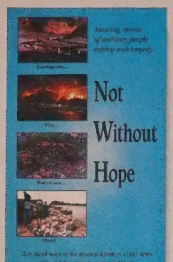
Part 3: **Voice and the Light** tells of the zealous Jewish community at Qumran where John, orphaned as a child, may have grown up. This tape details Jesus' early ministry.

Part 4: **The Bread of Sacrifice** shows how Jesus prepared his followers for his coming Passion. This segment ends with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Part 5: **Ripples of Darkness, Waves of Light** includes dramatic reenactments of the torture, execution, burial and resurrection of Jesus and an inquiry into the Shroud of Turin.

WHERE JESUS WALKED

This video takes you to Jerusalem, Nazareth, the Garden of Gethsemane, the River Jordan, Calvary and more. Breathtaking photography and dramatic background music will leave a lasting impression on those who make this video visit to the Holy Land. (30 min., VHS) Order Code **U-56** Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus points!***



NOT WITHOUT HOPE

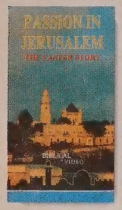
Not Without Hope picks up after tragic events fade from the public eye…tragedies like the death of two family members in one month, the great midwest flood, and the Los Angeles earthquake. People must pick up their broken lives and Christians can play a vital role. See the church in action as never before…assisting in the recovery and witnessing to the Gospel. **Not Without Hope** is inspirational…ideal for viewing by any Christian group. (45 min., VHS) Order Code **R-52** Cost: **$19.95** ***3 bonus points!***

Study version, designed for a six-week Bible study, includes a specially edited tape for use with a **study guide** with reproducible study sheets. Code **R-61** Cost: **$29.95** ***4 bonus points!***

JESUS: WHO DO MEN SAY THAT I AM?

At this hour millions would die for Him! Why? Who is this unforgettable man called Jesus? This intriguing investigation with everyday people and leading Bible scholars reveals some refreshing and often startling answers. Here is an intelligent, thought-provoking portrait that will challenge viewers. Produced by award-winning Horizons Television, this program raises key questions and helps viewers reach their own conclusion. (56 min., VHS) Order Code **Y-49** Cost: **$19.95** ***3 bonus points***

Passion In Jerusalem: The Easter Story depicts the great events leading to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Filmed on location in all the traditional Holy Week locations. (30 min., VHS) Code **R-67** Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus pts.!***



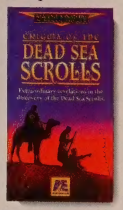
New Low Price!

The Last Supper, filmed in the Holy Land, explores the traditional Jewish Passover "Seder" meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. Emphasizes the Jewish roots and Christian significance of the Last Supper. (60 min., VHS) Code **Y-54** Cost: **$19.95** ***3 bonus points!***

The Garden Tomb: A Special Place highlights the Resurrection in the story of a Jerusalem location pilgrims believe may have been Christ's tomb. Ideal Easter morning viewing for Bible groups! (30 min., VHS) Code **V-41** Cost: **$14.95** ***3 bonus points!***

The Passover welcomes you into a Jewish home for the festival meal celebrated on the first night of Passover. A surprise ending reveals the significance of the meal's symbols and the true Messiah to whom these symbols point. (30 min., VHS) Code **V-40** Cost: **$19.95** ***3 bonus points!***

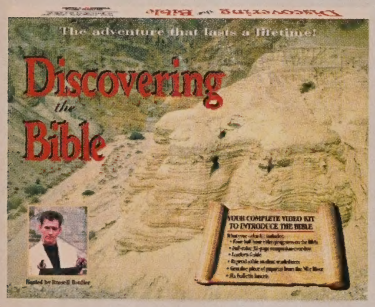
Enigma of the Dead Sea Scrolls combines high-tech analysis and in-depth scholarship to shed light on the oldest known manuscripts from New Testament times. These Scrolls offer insight into the birth of Christianity. (50 min., VHS) Code **R-68** Cost: **$19.95** ***3 bonus points!***



DISCOVERING THE BIBLE: THE ADVENTURE THAT LASTS A LIFETIME!

This four-part series is intended as a basic introduction to the Bible for those who have loved the Bible for years but may not have had the opportunity to discover where the Bible came from and how it came down to us. The flexible curriculum can be adapted to a four- or eight-week study program.

ORDER CODE Y-48
COST: $79.95
10 BONUS POINTS!



The four programs:

1. Getting Acquainted looks at the continuing influence of the Bible, how it came to be written and how it is organized.

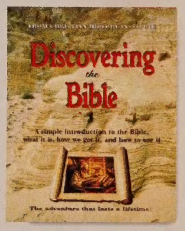
2. The Old Testament explores the main themes of the Old Testament, its organization and how it has been accurately copied.

3. The New Testament looks at the relationship between the New and Old Testaments and how the New Testament Canon came to be.

4. Survival, Spread and Influence notes how the Bible has survived through repeated persecutions and offers examples of how the Bible has transformed individual lives.

The complete curriculum kit includes:

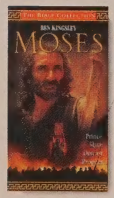
- Four half-hour programs
- Full-color 32-page companion overview
- Leader's Guide
- Reproducible student worksheets
- Genuine piece of papyrus from the Nile River
- Six bulletin inserts



VIEW THESE OLD TESTAMENT CLASSICS!

FROM TURNER PICTURES:

Cost: **$19.95** ***3 bonus points each!***



Moses is the awe-inspiring tale of an ordinary man called upon by God to become a great leader. When God, under the appearance of a burning bush, calls to him to guide the Israelites out of bondage, Moses at first balks, then accepts God's plan. Ben Kingsley stars in this epic drama. (2 tapes, 184 min., VHS) Code **V-50**

Abraham. Starring Richard Harris and Barbara Hershey. (150 min., VHS) Code **Y-45**

Jacob features Matthew Modine and Lara Flynn Boyle as Jacob and Rachel. (94 min., VHS) Code **Y-46**

Joseph. Ben Kingsley plays the part of the wealthy landowner to whom Joseph (Paul Mercurio) is sold into slavery by his brothers. (2 tapes, 185 min., VHS) Code **Y-47**

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

Internationally acclaimed actor Max Von Sydow's stirring performance reveals the compassion, anguish and glory of Jesus Christ. (2 tapes, 199 min., VHS) Code **Q-91** Cost: **$24.95** ***4 bonus points!***

New Low Price!

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Cecil B. DeMille's classic version of *The Ten Commandments* tells the story of Moses (played by Charlton Heston) and the Hebrew exodus. (2 tapes, 219 min., VHS) Order Code **Q-10** Cost: **$29.95** ***4 bonus points!***

SPECIAL WORSHIP RESOURCES

CONTEMPORARY LITURGIES USING TRADITIONAL MELODIES

In keeping with the tradition—begun by Martin Luther and encouraged by many current worship books—of setting various portions of the liturgy to hymn tunes for the sake of variety, deeper understanding, and eager participation by those who worship, each of these services offers seven liturgical hymns (Kyrie, Gloria, Alleluia, Credo, Sanctus, Agnus Dei, and Nunc Dimittis) set to familiar melodies. A booklet containing all the music accompanies each order of 50 or more. These attractive worship folders may be used again and again. Cost: **$9.90**/100, **$40**/500. Minimum order of 50.

Today's Praise uses such tunes as *Wake Awake, Jesus Shall Reign, Holy Holy Holy, Abide with Me*, and *For All the Saints*. Order Code **TP-1**

Glad Voices Raise involves such melodies as *Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus, Onward Christian Soldiers, Praise to the Lord the Almighty,* and *Tallis' Canon*. Order Code **TP-2**

RETURNING TO THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD

A Graveside Commital Service

Unlike a ceremony in which the mourners merely listen, this simple yet meaningful service allows those who have gathered at the graveside to participate actively in a responsive litany of Scripture and prayer. The rich Biblical imagery of the Good Shepherd, who calls his own by name, makes this attractive leaflet something to take home and treasure even beyond the cemetery. The inspiring words of the 23rd Psalm, as well as the verses of the hymn *I Am Jesus' Little Lamb* are included for private meditation, making **Returning to the Shepherd's Fold** a resource for ongoing ministry to the grieving. Order Code **CS-1** Cost: 50/**$4.50**, 100/**$7**, 200/**$12**.

PEW ENVELOPES

• Convenient for Members & Visitors • Can Increase Your Offerings • Colorful • Economical

Here is a idea that works to increase your church's offerings. Pew envelopes put within arm's reach provide a convenient way to contribute. *Visitors* can use them for their offering while informing you of their name, address, and their desire for a visit. *Members* can use them for special gifts–or for offerings if they forget their regular envelopes. Available with a choice of two designs.

$9.00/100, **$17.00**/500, **$33.00**/1000.

NEW THIS YEAR!

1997 PRAYER PAGES

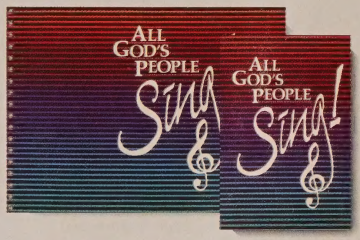
A Fresh Way to Open Parish Meetings

These monthly Prayer Pages for 1997 focus on what it means to live in the kingdom of God, describing in twelve devotions the qualities of our King, Jesus, as well as the characteristics of kingdom people. Printed on 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" sheets, these devotions include responsive litanies, prayers, Psalms, hymns and Scripture readings. Handy to use at parish meetings, small-group Bible studies or family gatherings. Prayer Pages cost **$5**/50 per month, please order in 50s. Save money, order **Prayer Pages** for 1997, **all twelve months**, 50 sheets per month cost: **$39**, 100 sheets, **$69**, Order Code **Y-13**.

1997 Prayer Pages
"Life in the Kingdom of God"

Jan.–The King Revealed **YY-1**, Feb.–The Kingdom of Love **YY-2**, Mar.–The King Crucified **YY-3**, Apr.–The King Lives! **YY-4**, May–The Kingdom at Work **YY-5**, Jun.–The Kingdom at Rest **YY-6**, Jul.–God's Holy Nation **YY-7**, Aug.–Stories of the Kingdom **YY-8**, Sep.–Decrees of the Kingdom **YY-9**, Oct.–Servants of the King **Y-10**, Nov.–The Kingdom of Blessing **Y-11**, Dec.–The King Is Coming! **Y-12**

A YEAR-LONG SONGBOOK



ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SING

A new book of songs and much more! Over 200 hymns, spirituals and carols for children (grades 3-8), youth and adults, including modern and traditional ethnic and folk hymns, plus easy liturgies for Advent, Lent, etc. and special occasions. Also has the Apostles' Creed, Luther's *Small Catechism*, and prayers for a variety of occasions. Even includes indexes of the hymns by Scripture text, first line and those in canon form. For Sunday Schools, day schools, song leaders, pastors, church musicians and parents. A perfect *supplement* to TLH, LW and LBW. Hardcover, 316 pages, 6x9" size. Order Code **GP-S** Cost: **$8.95**/1-49; **$7.95**/50+ **Pastor's sample hardcover copy** (one only, please)—Order Code **GP-X** Cost: **$6.95.** Paperback edition: Order Code **GP-P** Cost: **$6.00**/1-49; **$5.50**/50+ **. Accompaniment book,** spiral bound, duplicates the hardcover book in a large, double-page, (12x9") soft cover format. Order Code **GP-A** Cost: **$22.95.**

COMMUNION REGISTRATION CARDS

Communion Cards make it easy to keep track of your members' participation. Illustrated with full-color Christian art on white stock, these 2 1/2" x 5 1/2" cards come in two versions to suit your situation. **Cards can be custom imprinted** with your church's name and address. (Note that imprinting space is limited: a maximum of 4 lines, each about 26 letters long.) See the custom imprint instructions on page 45. Sorry, no phone orders on imprint orders.

Wording on the cards: Communion Registration: *Responding to our Lord's invitation to worthily prepared members of His Church, I come to partake of the Lord's Supper, confessing my sins and trusting that Christ is truly present in this sacrament with full forgiveness, life and salvation. Date/Name/Address/If Visitor, name of home church, city & state/Please return this card.* **Communion Record:** *Date/Name/Address/If visitor, Home church,city & state/ I would like the pastor to call/"As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." I Cor. 11:26/Please return this card.*

Order Code **CR-1** Custom imprinted Registration Card *(stained glass)* or **CR-2** *(chalice)*, First 400 (minimum order) **$20**; additional 1000s/**$12.95**.

Order Code **CR-3** Blank/Generic Registration Card *(stained glass)*, Order Code **CR-4** Blank/Generic Record Card *(chalice)* 100/**$2.75**; 1000/**$19.95**; additional 1000s/**$12.95.**

Custom Imprinted — **Blank/Generic**

GRACE NOTES
GREETING CARDS & MORE
CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH
(800) 325-9414 8-5 WEEKDAYS 8-2 SATURDAYS

GLIMPSES – A BULLETIN INSERT SERIES OF CHURCH HISTORY

Broaden the vision of your members with *Glimpses* into the "people, events, life and faith from the Church across the ages" by subscribing to these inexpensive monthly bulletin inserts. Prepared by the *Christian History Institute*, these half-sheets put into concise, lay terms fascinating knowledge of church history. Six inserts are shipped twice a year along with *Pastor's Notes*, a companion publication for the pastor with additional details and sermon ideas to make fullest use of each insert. Subscriptions are ongoing, billed with each shipment. Cancel at any time.

One year subscription to *Glimpses* includes 12 monthly issues, shipped in groups of 6 twice a year; begins with January 1997. Code **GS-S** Cost: 50 of each of six inserts/**$15**; 100 of each/**$28**; 250 of each/**$60**. Plus shipping. (Your second group of six inserts for 1997 will be shipped in June 1997.)

HERE IS A PREVIEW OF GLIMPSES FOR 1997:

January–June, 1997

Christian Renewal Movements

The Golden Summer of the Moravian Community
England's Christian Renewal
America Experiences the Great Awakening
America's Second Great Awakening
Christian Renewal Amid International Turmoil
Era of the Traveling Christian Evangelists

July–December, 1997

The First Four Centuries in the Church

Top stories of the first through fourth centuries, stories behind great hymns, timelines and quizzes, plus a special issue on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. (Sorry, no Pastor's Notes for this series.)

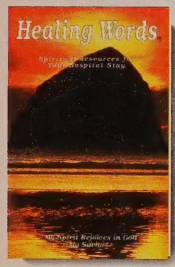
Jerusalem Razed, Christians Flee
Charlatan Cons Christians
Persecuted Christians Battle Virus
Bonhoeffer, Modern Martyr
Christians Adopt New Creed, Become Official Religion
Emperor Loses Battle to Restore Paganism

SPECIAL GLIMPSES FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Everyone thinks they know about St. Patrick. This full-color, four-page *Glimpses* will fascinate your members—it's packed with surprising facts about this Christian missionary from the 4th century. Here we learn that he was "neither Irish nor Roman Catholic…a Briton by birth…of Celtic Christianity." Captured by pirates at 15 and made to serve as a shepherd in Ireland, he was converted to the faith. Though he escaped to England, a vision persuaded him to return to preach the Gospel. For 30 years he evangelized and baptized, founding 200 churches and speaking out against slavery and paganism. Excerpts from his *Confession* and great prayer, *St. Patrick's Breastplace*, round out this valuable insert. Order Code **GS-P** Cost: **$5.50**/50 inserts; **$9**/100; **$15**/200. Plus shipping.

HELPS FOR THE CHURCH IN MINISTRY AT THE HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME

HEALING WORDS



Healing Words is a resource designed specifically for ministry to those in your parish who are hospitalized. With larger-than-normal print, items kept brief, and an upbeat approach to the ministry of medicine, **Healing Words** seeks to build up the spiritual resources of the patient through such pertinent features as:

• Bible readings • Devotions • Prayers • Poetry • A Peanuts cartoon • An "Ask the Chaplain" column

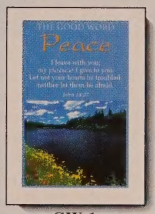
Healing Words is available quarterly. Since the booklets are not dated on the cover, back issues can be used anytime. Orders will be accepted quarterly or for 1 year subscriptions. Bulk orders are shipped, **one month in advance**. Order Code **HW-1 for a single quarter's issue or HW-2 for a 1 year subscription**. Prices per issue: **$.74** each/5-9 copies, **$.66** each/10-19 copies, **$.55** each 20-49 copies, **$.45** each/50-99 copies, **$.39** each/100-999 copies, **$.24** each/1000+ copies.

Note: For chaplains or pastors ordering **50+ issues quarterly**, the back cover can be custom-imprinted with type and line art (your logo). Imprint orders must be sent by mail. Imprint rates: **$.04** each/50-99 copies, **$.0375** each/100-999 copies, **$.03** each/1000+ copies.

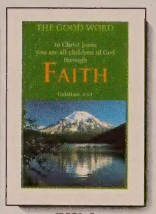
An issue of **Healing Words** is now available in **Spanish** Order Code *Spanish HW-S*. Cost: same as above

Healing Words Bargains! A potpourri of undated back issues are available in sets of 12. Sorry, no imprints are available on these bargains. Price: 1 or 2 sets at **$3.99**/set , 3 or more sets at **$2.99**/set. Order Code **HW-A**

GOOD WORD TABLE TENTS



GW-1



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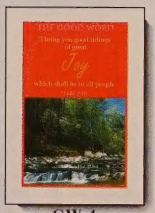
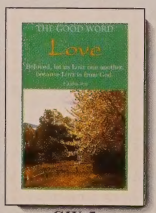
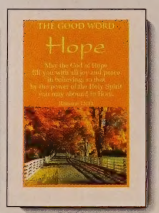
GW-3



GW-4



GW-5



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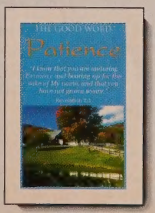

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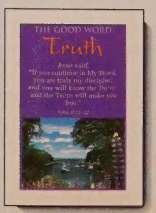
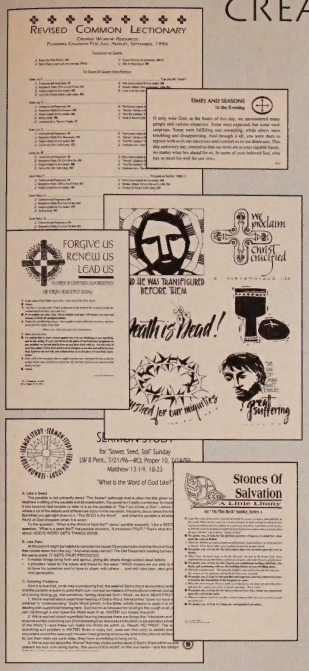


GW-8

Shut-ins and nursing home residents often appreciate it if the pastor can "leave a little something" after each visit. **The Good Word** is a series of eight different cards; each one emphasizing the assurance offered in a single Biblical word—which might well serve as the basis of a bedside devotion. Each card can be folded into a standing **"table tent"**—an ongoing visible reminder of **The Good Word** you share from God. Sold individually or in a sample packet which includes three of each table tent (for a total of 24 cards)—order a set for each person on your visitation list. Prices: **$.33** each/1-24 cards, **$.30** each/25+ cards. Sample packet (24 cards) Order Code **GW-P**, Cost, **$7.00**.

CREATIVE WORSHIP RESOURCES



NOW AVAILABLE ON COMPUTER DISKS!

Brighten your worship services throughout the year with **Creative Worship Resources**—simple enough for any size congregation.

Order by the quarter or save by ordering for a year. Shipped one month in advance of each quarter, you will receive fresh worship ideas for each Sunday—accenting the liturgy or season and involving your congregation in recognizing non-liturgical holidays too significant to neglect. Plus, ASCII text files of the printed material are included on computer disk (clip art is not included on disk).

Each quarter you will receive:

- **A Planning Calendar**, listing possible worship accents
- **Litanies, dramatic readings, and responsive prayers—all supplied typeset for reproduction, copying or retyping.** Participants receive copyright releases to use the material in their parish.
- **Artwork and titles** for bulletins and parish newsletters
- **Creative life-centered prayers** (on filecards for easy use and retrieval)
- **Prayer Pages**—devotions to begin church meetings
- **And Much More**

Cost per quarter $33.00—that's just $11 per month! Or, save **$24** and receive **Creative Worship Resources** on a regular basis for a full year. Cost: **$108.00**.

CY-1 January-March '97
CY-2 April-June '97 (available in March)
CY-5 full year (beginning January '97)
CY-6 full year (beginning April '97)

A sample of **Creative Worship Resources** is yours for the asking, **FREE!** Order Code **CY-F**.

CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

CLIP ART

Spruce up your bulletins, newsletters and other church publications with **Clip Art** from Creative Worship Resources...**subscribe** on a yearly basis. Each quarter you will receive 8 full-sized 8 1/2" x 11" pages on glossy paper...ideal for reproduction. Lots and lots of images with seasonal accents: Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and more. **Creative Communications Clip Art** is unique in that it includes seasonal bulletin mastheads for each Sunday.

One year subscription cost (4 quarters), **$19.95**, Order Code **BW-1** (begins with the January through March quarter)

CREATIVE WEDDING RESOURCES

CLASSIC WEDDING SET
8" white candle with gold and wax decorations. Matching wing candles and holders. Gift boxed. Order Code **CA-6**; Cost **$24.10.**

THE JOY OF CANA

This resource packet will not provide *everything* a pastor needs to conduct memorable weddings, but it offers all kinds of help!

Since every couple wants their wedding to be "special," here are suggestions for interactive processionals, various ways to use a unity candle, some new wedding hymns and prayers and litanies, a vow for the congregation, even ideas for creative, Scripture-based flower arrangements. Also included are pages of photo ready Clip Art from the pen of Christian artist Sally Beck—perfect for bulletin covers and invitations!

The highlight is a collection of unique wedding homily ideas which actively involve the bride and groom with such physical objects as candles, water, wine, rocks, rope—lessons to remember a whole marriage long. Cost: **$19.95.** Order Code: **WP-1**

UNITY WEDDING ENSEMBLE
11" pillar candle with cross and intertwined rings. Two matching wing candles; includes gold holder. Elegant gift box. Order Code **CA-7**; Cost **$48.00**

IMAGEPAK CLIP ART

• ImagePak—Matthew	47 pages	**$4.00**	**IP-1**
• ImagePak—Mark	32 pages	**$4.00**	**IP-2**
• ImagePak—Luke	54 pages	**$4.00**	**IP-3**
• ImagePak—John	46 pages	**$4.00**	**IP-4**
• ImagePak—The Four Gospels	187 pages	**$15.00**	**IP-5**
• ImagePak—Pictograms	30 pages	**$10.50**	**IP-6**
• ImagePak—Hohmann Pictograms	26 pages	**$10.50**	**IP-7**
• ImagePak—Design Elements	20 pages	**$7.00**	**IP-8**
• ImagePak—Entire Set loose leaf	263 pages	**$39.00**	**IP-A**

Total set features over 2,500 verbal and visual images, 263 pages, featuring more than 100 artists, many with international reputations. Size: 8-1/2" x 11" individual sheets. Publisher's original retail $79.95.

The four Gospel ImagePaks have a full page of visual & verbal images for each Gospel lesson in the 3-year lectionary—averaging more than 5 illustrations and 4 text units per Gospel reading

ImagePak Pictograms: 30 pages of high-quality reproducible Christian art portraying church events, stations of the cross, disciples, Gospel readings, and much more.

ImagePak Design Elements: 144 eye-catching graphics.

ImagePak Hohmann Pictograms: symbols for each Epistle lesson by acclaimed European woodcut artist Johannes Hohmann

Scripture Related Graphics on CD-ROM This CD-ROM contains 800 of the graphics relating to the New Testament found in the Image Pak clip art book. Find your graphic in seconds and search according to catchwords or scripture references. Handbook includes indices and printed copy of each graphic. A powerful and easy-to-use search program is included (PC:PICO Picture Office for Windows and Mac: Fetch Browser). Vector and Raster images (IBM/PC formats: CGM, AI, EPS, TIFF, PCX, and BMP; Mac formats: EPS and TIFF. Order Code **IP-B** Cost: **$94**

GIFTS FOR PARISH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

DOOR KNOCKERS

L-70

The Guardian Angel At Your Door (Psalm 91) is a solid polished bronze 4 3/4" door knocker with an antique finish. Screws are included, and each door knocker is gift boxed. Order Code **L-70** Cost: **$30/**1-2; **$25**/3 or more

L-71

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Jos 24:15) is a solid polished bronze 4 3/4" door knocker with an antique finish. Screws are included, and each door knocker is gift boxed. Order Code **L-71** Cost: **$20/**1-2; **$15**/3 or more

DOOR SIGN

L-72

The Door Sign welcomes guests with the sign of the Holy Name. Celtic style 3" cross is bronze with intricate interlace and color inlays. Nails are included, and each door sign is gift boxed. Order Code **L-72** Cost: **$12**/1-3; **$10.99**/4-10; **$9.99/**11 or more.

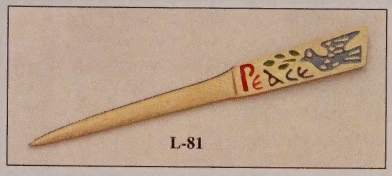
WALL CROSS

Wall Cross—The Lord bless you and keep you (Numbers 6:24). This 4 3/4" wall cross is made of intricately detailed antiqued pewter. Order Code **L-78 Cost: $18.50**/1-3; **$15.99**/4-10; **$14.99/**11 or more.

L-78

DECORATIVE LETTER OPENER

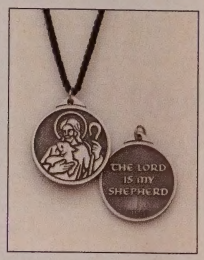
Peace Letter Opener features the Olive Branch on this 6 1/2" of solid polished bronze letter opener. Gift boxed. Order Code **L-81** Cost: **$10**/1-3; **$8.99/**4-10; **$7.99**/11 or more.



L-81

LORD IS MY SHEPHERD PENDANT

The Lord Is My Shepherd Pendant is a solid pewter pendant on a 24" chain comes in a poly bag. Order Code **L-80 Cost: $3.80**/1-11; **$3.50**/12-50; **$3.10**/51-100; **$2.80** 101 or more.



L-80

ICON OF LOVING KINDNESS PENDANT

"The Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us." (John 1:14). Solid cast, antiqued and polished pewter, this pendant comes on a 24" chain. Gift boxed. Order Code **L-79** Cost: **$5.00/**1-3; **$4.49**/4-10; **$3.99**/11 or more.

L-79

JERUSALEM CROSS

This pendant of solid bronze with enamel color comes on a 33" cord. The four Gospels are represented by the four crosslets around the center cross. Code **L-83** Cost: **$12**/1-3; **$10.99**/4-10; **$9.99**/11 or more.

L-83

INRI—JESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDAEORUM

This pendant of solid antiqued bronze comes on a 24" chain. Inscription is the words Pilate ordered placed on the cross when Jesus was crucified. Order Code **L-82 Cost: $10/**1-3; **$8.99**/4-10; **$7.99**/11 or more.

L-82

FROM TERRA SANCTA GUILD COMES FINE ORIGINAL ARTWORK TO

- RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS
- COMMEMORATE SIGNAL EVENTS
- HELP FORM A SENSE OF COMMUNITY
- SUPPORT LITURGICAL PRACTICE

SEE PAGE 33 FOR ADDITIONAL GIFT ITEMS AND PARISH SERVICE PINS FROM TERRA SANCTA GUILD

L-47

FIRST COMMUNION PIN/PENDANT

Recognize the first communicants in your parish with these pewter lapel pins or pendants. Pendants come on a 24" chain. Pin Order Code **L-47** Cost: **$3.50**/1-9; **$2.99**/10-24; **$2.79**/25-49; **$2.69**/50-99; **$2.49** 100 or more.
Pendant Order Code **L-86** Cost: **$4.00**/1-9; **$3.49**/10-49; **$2.99**/50 or more.

PARISH SERVICE PENDANTS

ALTAR SERVER

This service pendant is solid pewter, antiqued and polished, and comes on a 24" chain. Order Code **L-73** Cost: **$7.50**/1-3; **$6.99**/4-10; **$6.49**/11 or more.

L-73

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER

This solid bronze pendant with enamel color comes on a 33" cord. Code **L-84** Cost: **$7.50**/1-3; **$6.99**/4-10; **$6.49/**11 or more.

L-84

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER/ ALTAR SERVER

This solid bronze pendant with enamel color comes on a 33" cord. Order Code **L-85** Cost: **$7.00**/1-3; **$6.49**/4-10; **$5.99**/11 or more.

L-85

Makes a Great Gift!

PARISH SERVICE PINS & MORE

With this special recognition program each child begins with an enrollment pin (Code: L-00). At the end of the first year, the one year pin is given (Code: L-01). A new pin is given at the end of each year of enrollment. This system eliminates the worry of pupils losing pins.

Enrollment pin shown actual size, numbered pins are same size as enrollment pin.

L-01 THRU L-03

PINS L-00 – L-10

To order specify code (**L-00**-enrollment or **L-01** through **L-10**-year pins) and quantity of each pin needed. Cost: **$.69**/1-9 pins, **$.59**/10-24 pins, **$.55**/25-49 pins, **$.53**/50-99 pins, **$.49**/100+ pins. You may mix pins for larger discount.

PINS L-11 – L-17

Recognize the various ministries in your parish with these new service lapel pins. These recognition pins are **gold plated with enamel colors** and are gift boxed. All service lapel pins pictured above can be mixed to receive quantity discount pricing.

To order specify code and quantity of each pin needed. Cost: **$3.50**/1-9 pins, **$2.99**/10-24 pins, **$2.79**/25-49 pins, **$2.69**/50-99 pins, **$2.49**/100+ pins.

PINS L-20 – L-44

Recognize members for the services they offer with these service pins. Same design and color apply to each pin. Pins can be mixed to receive quantity discount pricing. To order specify code and quantity of each pin needed. Cost: **$3.00**/1-9 pins, **$2.50**/10-24 pins, **$2.39**/25-49 pins, **$2.29**/50-99 pins, **$2.19**/100+ pins.

Order Codes:
L-20 Acolyte
L-21 Altar Server
L-24 Choir
L-25 Confirmation
L-26 Educator
L-27 Eucharistic Minister
L-28 Godparent
L-29 Hospitality
L-30 Lay Minister
L-31 Lay Reader
L-32 Lay Visitor
L-33 Lector
L-34 Minister of Care
L-35 Pastoral Care
L-37 Secretary
L-38 Service
L-39 Sponsor
L-40 Treasurer
L-41 Usher
L-42 Volunteer
L-43 Youth Choir
L-44 Youth Minister

PERSONAL PENDANTS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

CHOIR CROSS

ACOLYTE CROSS

Solid bronze, and inlaid with enamel colors, on 33-inch sturdy brown cord.
Order Code **L-64 $7.50**/1-3, **$6.99**/4-10, **$6.49**/11+
Order Code **L-65 $7.50**/1-3, **$6.99**/4-10, **$6.49**/11+

JERUSALEM CROSS

This Jerusalem Cross is made of heavy die struck bronze on a brown cord and comes gift boxed.
Order Code **L-18** Cost: **$6.00**/1-3, **$5.49**/4-10, **$4.99**/ 11+

CONTEMPORARY CROSS

This contemporary cross is die struck bronze with enamel colors and comes with a 24-inch gold plated chain (gift boxed). Verse on back is Isaiah 43:1, "I have called you by your name; you are mine." Order Code: **L-19** Cost: **$8.50**/1-3, **$7.99**/4-10, **$7.49**/11+

BOOKMARK

This Book Mark is made of pewter on a blue grosgrain ribbon and comes gift boxed. The verse is Proverbs 3:9, "In All Thy Ways" Order Code: **L-48** or "Alive in the Spirit," Order Code **L-66.** Cost for either: **$5.00**/1-3, **$4.74**/4-10, **$4.49**/11+

PAPERWEIGHT

Makes a Great Gift!

Marbel Paperweight. 2" x 2" Carrara marble. Order Code: **L-67 $8.50**/1-3, **$7.99**/4-10, **$7.49**/11+

CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH
(800) 325-9414 8-5 WEEKDAYS 8-5 SATURDAYS

NEW! CUSTOM PRODUCTS FOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES

GREAT FUND-RAISERS!

Custom-designed, pewter finish ornaments of your church make wonderful remembrances for anniversaries and dedications. Approximately 2 1/2" in diameter each ornament is rendered by an artist according to your specifications.
Ornament Order Code **CC-O**, Cost: 150/**$9.85** each, 200/**$8.35** each, 250/**$7.45** each, 300/**$6.85** each, 500/**$5.70** each, 1000/**$4.90** each.

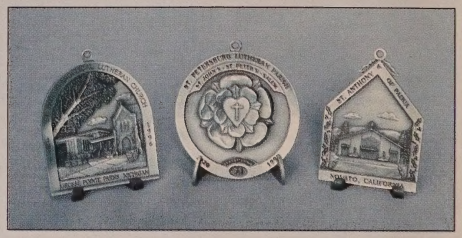
For further information please call or write:
Creative Communications for the Parish
Attn: Custom Order Department
10300 Watson Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63127
(314) 821-1363 or (800) 325-9414

Display the fine Pewter Ornament on your desk, mantle or table by using an ornament stand. Pewter ornament stands, Order Code **CC-S**, Cost: **$2.00** each/ 1-199, **$1.80** each/200-500.
Matte black metal ornament stands, Order Code **CC-B**, Cost: **$1.70** each.

A custom-made key ring or letter opener makes a great, useful, daily reminder of your church's special event or logo. Key rings Order Code **CC-R**; Letter openers Order Code **CC-N**. Prices need to be quoted based on design complexity and quantity.

HERE'S HOW TO ORDER

Send a photo of your church or logo, and the artist will prepare a sketch for you **at no cost or obligation**. When you are completely satisfied with the design, then place your order. Once an order is placed, it will take 10 to 12 weeks for production, so plan ahead.



SPECIAL CUSTOM CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Your own unique design (black line art) can be handcrafted on beautiful glass ornaments for your church, organization or school. Perfect for fund-raisers, special gifts, commemoratives or anniversaries. Minimum order is 100. Ornament is imprinted on one side only and comes in a holiday gift box. **$45.00 set-up charge** added to order. Please allow 4-5 weeks for production *after* you have approved final artwork.
Order Code **CC-A (2-5/8" round)** Cost: **$4.50** each/100-149; **$4.30** each/150+.
Order Code **CC-H (3-1/4" round)** Cost: **$4.90** each/100-149; **$4.65** /150+.

Custom silkscreened brass ornaments. Minimum order is 120 pieces same design. Imprint is in one or two colors and comes in clear poly bag. $67.50 set-up charge added to order. Order Code: **CC-D** (1 color imprint) **$3.99** each, **CC-E** (2 color imprint) **$4.49** each. Please allow six weeks for production and delivery.

CALL OUR SPECIAL ORDER DEPARTMENT FOR A FREE SAMPLE!

CUSTOMIZED CALENDARS FOR YOUR CHURCH OR SCHOOL

ANNIVERSARIES · BUILDING DRIVES · STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGNS · SPIRITUAL RENEWAL · SCHOOL FUND DRIVES

Order as few as 100 calendars and get full-color cover & customized pages!

FULL-COLOR COVER FROM YOUR PHOTOGRAPH OR ARTWORK
- VISIBLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
- CUSTOM-DESIGNED

EVERY MONTH FEATURES:
- CUSTOMIZED DAILY CALENDAR FOR YOUR CHURCH EVENTS
- LITURGICAL COLORS AND THEMES
- A SPACE FOR YOUR OWN TEXT OR YOU MAY USE OUR TEXT—OR ADD YOUR OWN PICTURE
- ART WITH SCRIPTURE OR RELIGIOUS VERSE

Highlight your church's ministry and history throughout the year for members and visitors, or detail special events for an anniversary year. These highly personalized calendars are affordable reminders to the congregation of God's work through them in their community and the world.

Customize the cover with a color picture of your church, school, a group picture of your members, or any other picture you choose. Include your founding date, anniversary year, church name or any other important information on the colorful front of the calendar which will show throughout the year.

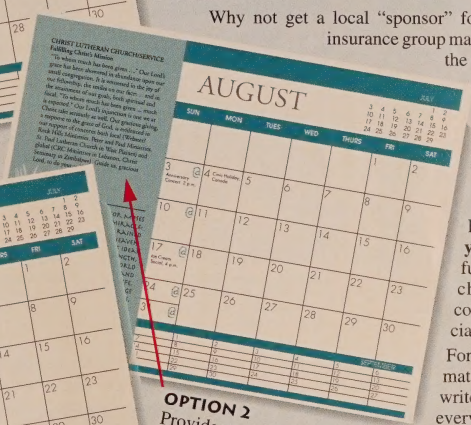
Customize the back panel in black and white with a letter from the pastor or the anniversary committee.

Why not get a local "sponsor" for this special calendar? A local business or insurance group may help cover the cost of printing in exchange for the opportunity to place their name in black and white on a back cover panel. The space may also be used for another creative purpose.

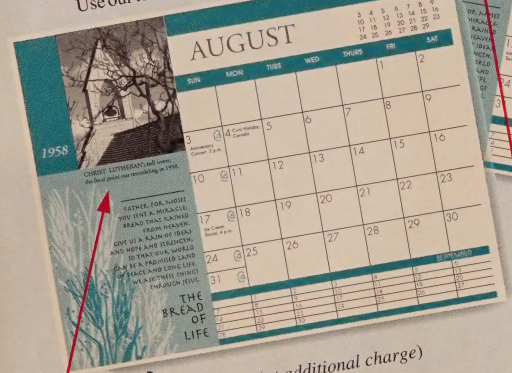
Each month space is provided for you to tell your story in **mission, music, service, Christian growth, worship, fellowship, education,** and **history**. Each monthly page also includes a piece of artwork and Scripture verse or poem. **For an additional charge**, you may **include your own photograph** each month. Each colorful calendar page, featuring the colors of the church year, attractively presents your congregation's history and any special dates or events.

For a free **sample calendar** and information kit (Order Code **FR-3**), call or write and we will provide you with everything you need to prepare your congregation's customized calendar. (Calendar production will take 8 weeks *after* receiving all necessary information and pictures from you.)

OPTION 1
Use our text based on monthly theme



OPTION 2
Provide your own text for special commemorations



OPTION 3
Provide your own photo (*at additional charge*)

Customized Calendar Order Code **CC-J** Cost: (100 Minimum order) 100-149/**$6.95**; 150-199/**$6.49**; 200-299/**$5.95**; 300-399/ **$5.49**, 400+/**$4.79.** For larger quantities, please call.

ANNIVERSARY LABELS

Anniversary seals are a great way of saying "We're a stable part of the community and we'll be there in times of need." Add anniversary seals to your letterheads, envelopes, purchase orders, new member informations, visitor packets or anniversary invitations. Your church name, city, state, years in ministry, year started and current year are placed on this anniversary seal. Order by groups of 1000 only. Order Code **CC-F**; Cost: **$76.50**/1000, **$134.00**/2000, **$178.50**/3000, **$255.00**/5000

CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH
(800) 325-9414 8-5 WEEKDAYS 8-5 SATURDAYS

GRACE NOTES GREETING CARDS

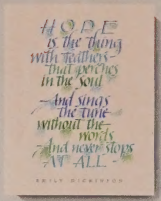
Fund-raising idea!

NEW THIS YEAR!

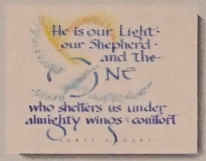
GOSPELINES CALLIGRAPHY CARDS

Entire collection Code **10-A**.

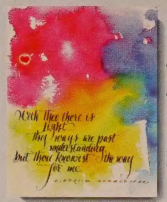
10-G Thank you. *Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Mt. 5:16.*



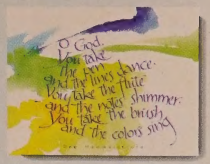
10-J You are in my thoughts and prayers. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 15:13*



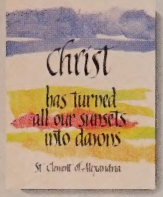
10-D May you know God's healing touch. *You who live in the shelter of the Most High...will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress...." Ps. 91:1-2*



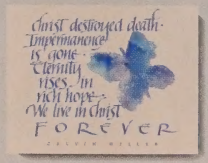
10-K (blank inside). *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7.*



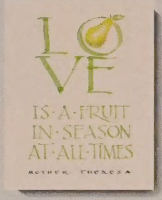
10-C May your birthday shimmer with God's grace. *Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Ps. 96:6.*



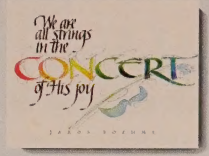
10-E The Lord be with you. *We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Rom. 8:37.*



10-F May God comfort you. *God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. I Jn. 5:11*



10-H Thank you. *If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us! 1 Jn. 4:12.*



10-B May your birthday be filled with music and mirth. *The joy of the Lord is your strength. Neh. 8:10*

10-L (blank inside). *I hold you in my heart, for we have shared together God's blessings. Phil. 1:7.*

NEW THIS YEAR!

GOSPELENS PHOTOGRAPHY CARDS

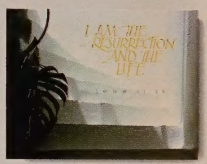
Entire collection Code **13-A**.

13-B Birthday Joy. *On front: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice. Phil. 4:4.*

13-C God's blessings on your birthday. *On front: In God's presence there is fullness of joy. Ps. 16:11.*

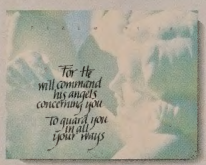
13-D May the Lord renew your strength. *On front: In thy light we see light. Ps. 36:9.*

13-E May God grant you a full recovery. *On front: In quietness and trust is your strength. Is. 30:15.*

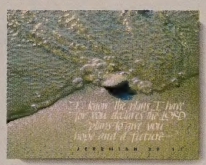


13-F May God comfort you in your sorrow. *On front: I am the resurrection and the life. Jn. 11:25.*

13-G (blank inside). *On front: May the Lord encourage your heart. 2 Th. 2:17.*



13-H (blank inside). *On front: For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. Ps. 91:11.*



13-J (blank inside). *On front: I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord...plans to give you hope and a future. Jer. 29:11.*

13-K (blank inside). *On front: My peace I give to you. Jn. 14:27.*

13-L (blank inside) *On front: And that your joy may be full. Jn. 15:11.*

Grace Notes are a line of all-new, Christian greeting cards, so memorable you'll want to keep them. Each collection features a unique, colorful style. Every card includes a Scripture verse. Most cards come with a pre-printed greeting, while several cards in these five collections come blank inside for your personal greeting.

Gospe*lines* collection—joining calligraphy and art in graceful messages.
Gospe*lens* collection—thoughtful photography with calligraphic Scripture messages
Gospe*lite* collection—humorous, Scripture-based cards hit the spot!
Good Graces collection—bright and warm, these cards bring Gospel cheer for all situations of life.

Each **Grace Notes** collection includes 10 different cards boxed with matching envelopes, **$6.00** each box or **$10** for two boxes. Boxes of 10 of the same card may be ordered by using the individual Order Code. **Grace Notes** cost much less than the cost of store cards—if you could find comparable cards with Christian messages. Order several and have them on hand when you need just the right card. **Gospe*lines*** collection, box of 10 Order Code **10-A, Gospe*lens*** series, box of 10 Order Code **13-A**, **Gospe*lite*** collection, box of 10 Order Code **11-A**, ***Good Graces*** collection, box of 10 Order Code **12-A,** Cost **$6** each; 2 or more boxes, **$5 each.**

We provide a small display with a minimum order of 50 boxes (Order Code **FR-4**).

SPECIAL FOR FUND-RAISERS!

Receive big discounts on large quantities. Schools, parish bookstores, youth groups, etc. Order quantities of 50, 100 or more boxes and make up to $3.00 per box. 50 boxes, **$4.00** each; sell for $6, you make $2 each!, 100 boxes, **$3.50** each; sell for $6, you make $2.50 each!, 250 boxes, **$3.25** each; sell for $6, you make $2.75 each!, 500 boxes, **$3.00** each; sell for $6, you make $3.00 each! For a free sample of the special fund-raising brochure with details on the program, Order Code **FR-1**. For additional brochures, Order Code **FR-2**.

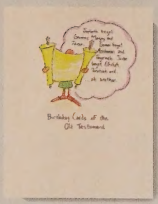
GRACE NOTES GREETING CARDS

GOSPELITE COLLECTION

Entire collection Code **11-A**. See page 36 for prices.

11-B May you have a Birthday of Biblical Proportions. *I am the light of the world. ...Jn. 8:12.*

11-C Hope you beget what you want for your Birthday. *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! . . . I Pet. 1:3.*



11-D The strength of Samson, ...the faith of Abraham, ...the Wisdom of King Salmon. *For wisdom will enter... Prov. 2:10-11.*

11-E Guess who doubts you're a whole year older. Happy Birthday!! *O Lord, how majestic . . . Ps. 8:1.*

11-F Heard you were feeling under the weather. Get well soon! *Call on me in the day of trouble . . . Ps. 50:15*

11-G What you've achieved is nothing short of a miracle. Congratulations. *The Lord is my strength... Ex. 15:2.*

11-H Good Luck!! *Surely goodness and mercy will follow me . . . Ps. 23:6.*

11-J Just what you wanted, a dozen long-stemmed Moses. Happy Anniversary!! *Love always protects. . . I Cor. 13:7.*

11-K Been thinking of you every now and den. *We pray that God may count you worthy of his calling, . . . 2 Thes. 1:11.*

11-L The Howdyluia Chorus. *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say it: Rejoice! Phil. 4:4.*

GOOD GRACES COLLECTION

Entire collection Code **12-A**. See page 36 for prices.

12-B ...To celebrate all your days. Happy Birthday! *My times are in Your hand. Ps. 31:15.*

12-E With healing in his wings, our Lord seeks to be near you. *Under his wings you will find refuge. Ps. 91:4.*

12-D The same God who calmed the sea's storm with a word, . . . cradles you even now, in his gentle, healing hands. *Then shall the eyes...Is. 35:5-6.*

12-C ...when he fashioned and made you . . . he gave everyone else the gift of you! Birthday Blessings. *I will sing ... Ps. 104:33.*

12-F ... over each homecoming child. Even in your sorrow, may you catch a glimpse of that Resurrection joy. *May God ... who led Jesus . . . Heb. 13:20-21.*

12-K May your newborn baby remind you of the faith God has in you! . . . Many blessings on this gift of God! *Oh, how blessed . . .* Ps. 127:5.

12-H You caught my attention! Opened my eyes! Turned my head! Touched my heart! Thank you! *How can we thank God enough . . . I Thes. 3:9.*

12-G ...be with you at this time of sorrow. *For the Lord comforts his people. Is. 49:13.*

12-L ...a word that brings to mind: the flash of a smile, the clink of a glass, the aroma of a meal, the sharing of a tear...and you! *I hold you in my heart... Phil. 1:7.*

12-J You made the effort! You made the time! You made my day! Thank You! *I have not stopped giving thanks .... Eph. 1:16.*

FOR PRICES ON ALL CARDS, SEE PAGE 36.

SINGLE OCCASION BOXES

BIRTHDAY BOX: 10 birthday cards, our assortment from all four collections, Order Code **15-A**

GET WELL BOX: 10 get well cards, our assortment from all four collections, Order Code **15-B**

SYMPATHY BOX: 10 sympathy cards, two each of 10-E, 10-F, 12-F, 12-G, 13F, Order Code **15-C**

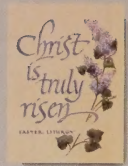
THANK YOU BOX: 10 thank you cards, our assortment of 10-G, 10-H, 12-H, 12-J, Order Code **15-D**

MULTI-OCCASION BOX: (blank inside for your personal greeting) 10 cards, our assortment from Gospelines and Gospelens collections, Order Code **15-E**

EASTER CARDS

These new Easter cards express the true meaning of the season through colorful art, calligraphy and Christ-centered messages. Matching envelopes are included for these 6 1/8 x 4 1/2" cards. Your choice of two different assortments, **ED-A** or **ED-X,** include 10 cards each, (two of each design in the assortment). You may also purchase 10 cards of one design (See individual cards for Order Codes). Cost **$7.50**

ED-1



ED-2

ED-3

ED-4

ED-5

ED-6

ED-8

ED-9

ED-0

ED-7

ASSORTMENT ED-X

ED-1 *"Easter blessings of joy and peace be yours, alleluia."*
ED-2 *"May Easter be a time of celebration and a font of joy throughout the year."*
ED-3 *"May the Easter Alleluia always linger softly in your heart and soul."*
ED-4 *"May the Peace of the Risen Christ fill your heart with joy."*
ED-5 *"May Easter blessings of JOY in Christ's victory be yours, alleluia!"*

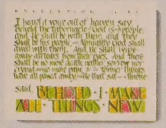
ASSORTMENT ED-A

ED-6 *"He is risen. Let us rejoice!"*
ED-7 *"Let us ever rejoice in Christ's resurrection! HAPPY EASTER"*
ED-8 *"In Him we are risen to a new life. A Joyous Easter"*
ED-9 *"May the joy of the risen Jesus be yours, now and always, alleluia."*
ED-0 *"May Christ's risen life be in us anew, alleluia!"*

THE SHEPHERD GUIDES

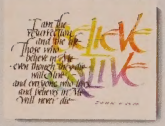
RESOURCES FOR GRIEF MINISTRY

Grief is a process—often a long process. "The Shepherd Guides" card set helps grieving members of your congregation by letting them know that you care about them throughout their **journey of grief**—and that Jesus is with them all the way! This **set of five cards** is to be sent to your grieving parishioners throughout the first year of their grief—one card sent immediately, one at Christmas, one at Easter, one at All Saints' Day, one at the first anniversary of the death. The cover of each card has words of a meaningful Bible verse, in beautiful full-color calligraphy from the pen of Christian artist Sally Beck. Inside is a special prayer, a kind sentiment, and a space for a personal note. Here is a meaningful way to minister to your people when they need comfort the most. **Set of five cards and envelopes** with an organizing cover-envelope for easy filing—available on white or tan stock, Order Code: **GH-6** (tan), **GH-H** (white), Cost: **$2.99.** Or, order the card individually: Funeral Card, Order Code: **GH-1 or GH-C**. Christmas Card, Order Code: **GH-2 or GH-D**. Easter Card, Order Code: **GH-3 or GH-E**. All Saints' Card, Order Code: **GH-4 or GH-F**. One Year Anniversary Card, Order Code **GH-5 or GH-G**. Cost per card: 1-24/**$.58** each; 25-49/**$.48**; 50+/**$.42**.

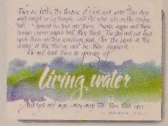


GH-1 (tan)
GH-C (white)

GH-2 (tan)
GH-D (white)



GH-3 (tan)
GH-E (white)



GH-4 (tan)
GH-F (white)

GH-5 (tan)
GH-G (white)

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY CARDS

HELP SPONSORS BE GODPARENTS FOR YEARS TO COME WITH A GIFT THAT TRULY "KEEPS ON GIVING"

Fir.ally an answer to the **sponsors**' question: "What do we do now?" These new cards help sponsors build a nurturing Christian relationship with their godchildren. These age-appropriate **Baptismal Birthday Cards** for children from 1 to 12 years of age are available in sets of 12, **one for each year from baptism to confirmation**. These cards help convey a sponsor's Christian care for a godchild on the child's baptismal anniversary. Each year's message varies, but all are grounded in the power and blessing of God's baptismal grace. 4 1/2 x 5 3/4" cards feature original, full-color art. **Sets of 12** cards with matching envelopes. Order Code **BT-A** Cost: 1-4 sets, **$4.99**; 5-9 sets, **$4.79**; 10+ sets, **$4.49**

Individual cards also available for sponsors, the church or other caring adults. Sets of 12 identical cards (prices same as **BT-A**) with envelopes. Please order by code numbers shown with illustrations. Order Code **BT-B** year one; **BT-C** year two; **BT-D** year three; **BT-E** year four; **BT-F** year five; **BT-G** year six; **BT-H** year seven; **BT-I** year eight; **BT-J** year nine; **BT-K** year ten; **BT-L** year eleven; **BT-M** year twelve.

BT-D

BT-E

BT-B

BT-I

BT-J

BT-K

BT-C

BT-F

BT-G

BT-H

BT-L

BT-M

New Low Price!

COORDINATED CHRISTIAN STATIONERY

- Personal stationery for every use
- Contemporary Christian designs in color
- 100% recycled paper and matching envelopes

You'll find the right stationery for any writing need among these five different sized stationery items on cream-colored stock:

- Monarch-sized stationery (7 x 10") 15 printed sheets, 15 blank sheets and 15 envelopes per pack, Cost **$3.95**
- Petite notes (4 1/4 x 5 1/2") 12 notes and 12 envelopes per pack, Cost **$2.95**
- Notecards (3 1/2 x 6") 25 cards and 25 envelopes per pack, Cost **$2.95**
- Postalettes (4 x 6" folded) 15 cards and 15 seals per pack, Cost **$2.95**
- Postcards (4 1/8 x 5 7/8") 15 cards per pack, Cost **$1.95**

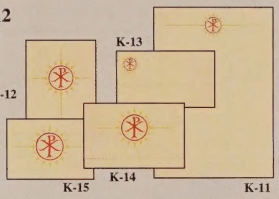
All sizes are available with one of the five contemporary two-color designs shown here.

- **CHI RHO**
- **GOD BLESS YOU**
- **GRACE AND PEACE**
- **GREEK CROSS**
- **MODERN CROSS**

You may order **packs of any one sized item** with your choice of one design. *Save 15%* when you *order* ***sets featuring any one design*** *including all five sizes of stationery*. To order a set, use the set Order Code. Cost **$12.55**

CHI RHO DESIGN

Monarch pack, Order Code **K-11**
Petite note pack, Order Code **K-12**
Notecard pack, Order Code **K-13**
Postalette pack, Order Code **K-14**
Postcard pack, Order Code **K-15**
CHI RHO set includes one pack of each size, Order Code **K-10**

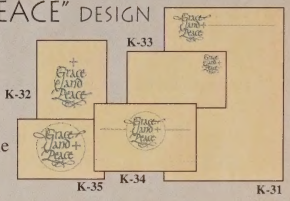


"GOD BLESS YOU" DESIGN

Monarch pack, Order Code **K-21**
Petite note pack, Order Code **K-22**
Notecard pack, Order Code **K-23**
Postalette pack, Order Code **K-24**
Postcard pack, Order Code **K-25**
GOD BLESS YOU set includes one pack of each size, Order Code **K-20**

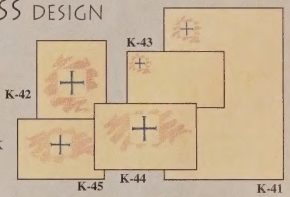
"GRACE AND PEACE" DESIGN

Monarch pack, Order Code **K-31**
Petite note pack, Order Code **K-32**
Notecard pack, Order Code **K-33**
Postalette pack, Order Code **K-34**
Postcard pack, Order Code **K-35**
GRACE AND PEACE set includes one pack of each size, Order Code **K-30**



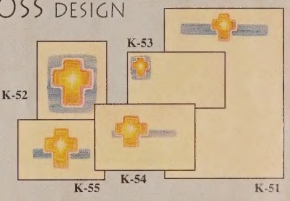
GREEK CROSS DESIGN

Monarch pack, Order Code **K-41**
Petite note pack, Order Code **K-42**
Notecard pack, Order Code **K-43**
Postalette pack, Order Code **K-44**
Postcard pack, Order Code **K-45**
GREEK CROSS set includes one pack of each size, Order Code **K-40**



MODERN CROSS DESIGN

Monarch pack, Order Code **K-51**
Petite note pack, Order Code **K-52**
Notecard pack, Order Code **K-53**
Postalette pack, Order Code **K-54**
Postcard pack, Order Code **K-55**
MODERN CROSS set includes one pack of each size, Order Code **K-50**



CHRISTIAN CARDS TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS

Caring words of faith to comfort and support those facing a terminal illness, tragedy or personal crisis. Each card is 6 1/8" x 4 1/2". Envelopes are included. Cost: **$7.50**/10 cards. Order Code for assortment (1 each of 10 cards) **JL-A**.

JOURNEY OF LIFE CARDS

We let go of this world to let God welcome us into our eternal home. All shall be well with us in God. **JL-1**

May Christ's love enfold you, comfort you, and lead you into unending life and joy. **JL-2**

Thinking of you, loving you, praying for you. **JL-3**

May you feel God's love at every step on the way. God love you! **JL-4**

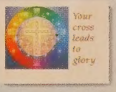
Know that Christ is your companion in all you suffer. May his love touch and comfort you. **JL-5**

Eye has not seen what God has prepared for those who love. May God's love embrace you. **JL-6**

We journey toward that light, the God of us all, who lights the sun. Blessings and prayers. **JL-7**

God's love embraces and welcomes you. You are loved. Praying for you. **JL-8**

God be with you as you journey in faith to a glorious life that never ends. God bless and support you. **JL-0**



Your example of faith and patient love is admired and appreciated. God bless and love you! **JL-9**

SEASONS OF LIFE CARDS

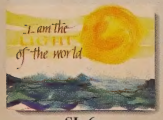
Bring caring words of faith to comfort and support those facing a terminal illness, tragedy or personal crisis with these entirely new note cards. Graced by Sally Beck's art, each 4 1/2 x 5 3/4" card features an appropriate greeting. Matching envelopes included. Assortment of 8 cards or 8 of one design *(see individual cards for Order Codes)*, Cost **$5.95.** Order code for **assortment** (1 each of 8 cards) **SL-F**.

SL-1

SL-2

SL-5

SL-4



SL-6

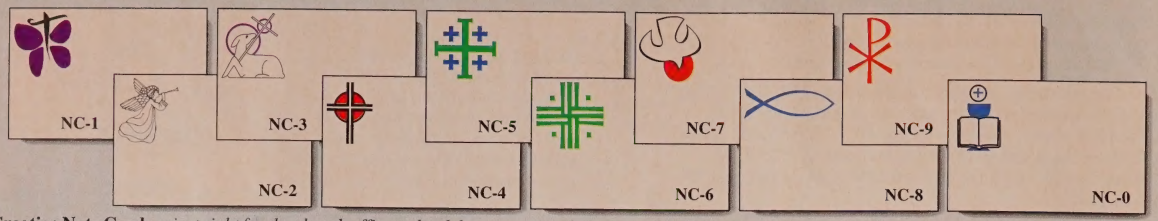
SL-7

SL-3

SL-8

SL-1 *"May the LORD make you strong. Your strength, your endurance, your patience are gifts from God—and a beautiful witness to all who know you. You are in our prayers."* plus Col. 1:11-12. **SL-2** *"Trust in His promise. The Lord who sees your weary heart will bear your burden and give you peace. Trust in that promise."* plus Mt. 11:28. **SL-3** *"Under the shadow of your wings. May you know the protecting power and love of Jesus Christ in this difficult time."* plus Ps. 36:7. **SL-4** *"He who watches over you will not slumber—Ps. 121:3. May our Lord who loves you dearly give you peaceful days and quiet nights. This is our prayer for you."* **SL-5** *"I will not be afraid, LORD, for you are with me. We pray that you will feel the light and love of our Lord in your present darkness."* plus Ps. 23:4." **SL-6** *"I am the LIGHT of the world. May the light of Christ brighten every corner of your life and heart."* plus John 8:12. **SL-7** *"The hand of Christ touch you—hold you—lead you to your heavenly home."* plus Ps. 73:23-4. **SL-8** *"You comfort me and make me glad, Lord. May God the Father uphold you; May Christ our Lord enfold you; May the Spirit give you peace."* plus Ps. 94:19.

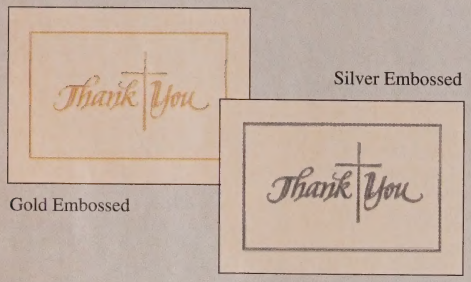
CREATIVE NOTE CARDS



Creative Note Cards—*just right for the church office, school, home, personal use or as gifts.* Convenient for those brief reminders and thank you notes, these cards will suit your needs. Creative offers ten note cards with a choice of Christian symbols in color on white card stock. Designs are available individually or assorted. Note cards are 3 1/2" x 6" and come with matching envelopes.

100 Assorted cards (ten of each design) with envelopes, Order Code **NX-1**, Cost **$5.95;** 25 cards of one design (specify Order Code): Cost **$1.95**

THANK YOU CARDS



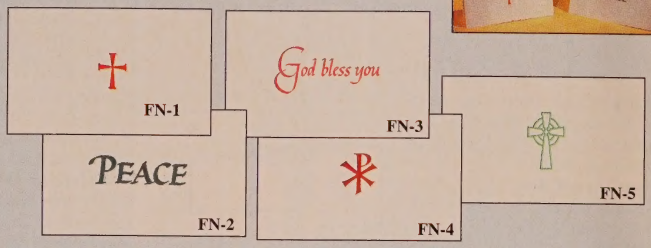
Silver Embossed

Gold Embossed

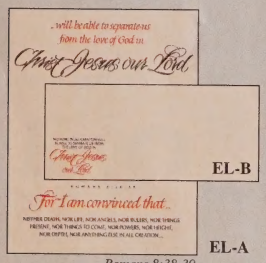
This exquisite classic design is always appropriate. Convey your thanks in just the right Christian context. Cards are blank inside. The folded size is 3 1/2" x 4 7/8". Twenty notes with quality envelopes cost **$4.95**. Order Code **FN-S** (silver) or Code **FN-G** (gold).

FOLDED NOTE CARDS

Now Creative offers these *folded* note cards, their covers decorated with Christian symbols in raised printing and blank on the inside. Just the thing for your longer notes. Matching envelopes (included) are lined for privacy. Folded size: 3 1/2" x 6". Offered in packs of 20 of one kind or assorted. Specify card number. Order Code **FN-1, FN-2, FN-3, FN-4,** or **FN-5**. For assorted pack (4 each), Order Code **FN-9**; Cost **$2.50** per pack.



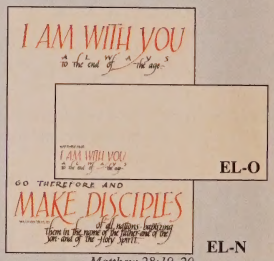
PASTORAL EPISTLE LETTERHEAD



Romans 8:38-39

Philippians 1:3, 6

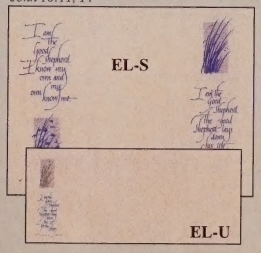
John 15:9, 11



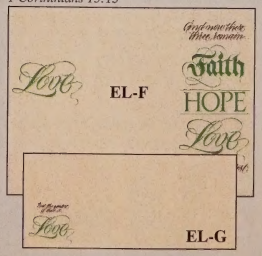
Matthew 28:19, 20

Matthew 5:3-10

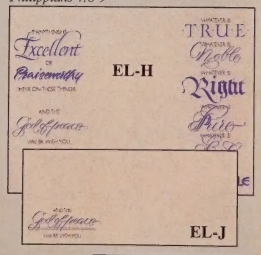
John 10:11, 14



1 Corinthians 13:13



Philippians 4:8-9



EIGHT NEW DESIGNS!

This new series features four pastoral epistle letterheads with the words of Jesus and four with the words of St. Paul. A unique parish resource, pastoral epistle letterhead provides stock sheets that can be used for a variety of parish messages. They also work perfectly for personal and special notes from the clergy. Sold in 50s and shipped flat on special laid stock—ideal for mimeograph and offset. Matching envelopes also available. Letterhead cost: **$7.50**/100, **$34**/500, **$60**/1000; Envelope cost: **$7.50**/100, **$34**/500, **$60**/1000.

Sampler Packet (75 each of four letterheads) 300 letterheads in all; Cost: **$22**; Sampler Packet (75 each of four envelopes) 300 envelopes in all; Cost: **$22**.

Please be sure to specify "sample packet" and note which four letterheads and envelopes you wish to order.

COLORFUL CUSTOM IMPRINTED STATIONERY FOR YOUR CHURCH

· CHOICE OF TWO PAPER STOCKS, COLOR LOGOS · MATCHING ENVELOPES · BUSINESS CARDS · MEMO PADS · DESIGN YOUR OWN STATIONERY—NO EXTRA COST

Now you can afford multicolor letterhead and envelopes printed on fine, white paper. Choose either our 24# watermarked 25% cotton bond or our 24# multi-purpose (suitable for copier and laser printer). Business cards come on 65# white card stock; memo pads, on white stock.

Your personalized imprint (in black) can include such information as name, address, phone(s), name(s) of pastor(s), etc. Plus, Creative will print the logo of your choice in color. Logos printed on memo pads in black only.

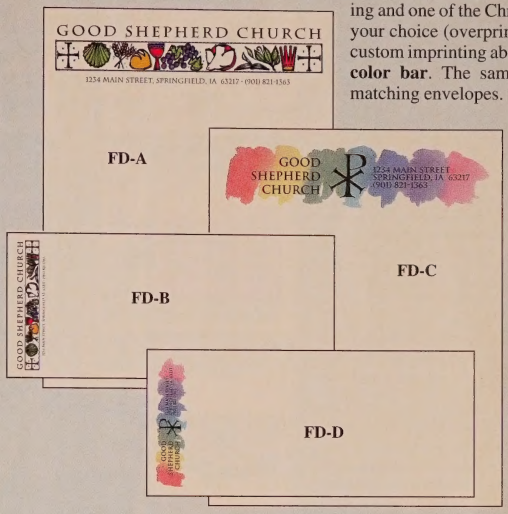
Denominational logos appear in *two* colors on letterhead, envelopes and business cards; (denominational logos appear only in black on memo pads.) *Faith Design* symbols appear in *four* colors. *Other Creative symbols* are available in *one* color (as shown in illustrations).

Pick our new *Spectrum Designs* to create your own stationery with pre-designed elements. Choose the *symbol color bar* (**FD-A** and **FD-B**) with a type layout of your choice. Or use the *rainbow color bar* (**FD-C** and **FD-D**) and add a Creative symbol of your choice—or your own logo—plus imprinting in black (see example).

At no extra charge, Creative can also print stationery to your specifications (on our white stock) and imprint your parish logo in one color—red, blue, green or black *(see color swatches).*

NEW THIS YEAR! SPECTRUM DESIGN™ STATIONERY

New *Spectrum Design*™ stationery features mix and match elements to create your own unique stationery (see illustrations). Combine the *Spectrum* **rainbow color bar** with your custom imprinting and one of the Christian symbols in an arrangement of your choice (overprinted in black only). Or arrange your custom imprinting above and below the *Spectrum* **symbol color bar**. The same imprinting will be provided on matching envelopes. *(Sorry, no matching business cards. Memo pads available in black only.)*



OTHER CREATIVE SYMBOLS

—or send us a clear, black-and-white copy of your own design.

HOW TO ORDER

1 Clearly print or type out the exact wording you wish to appear on your letterhead, envelope, business card and/or memo pad.

2 Make a photocopy of this catalog page and on it circle the logo and/or color bar you wish on the stationery. For custom designs, attach a sketch and, if desired, a clear copy of your own logo. Specify the color you desire.

3 Circle the paper stock and quantities you wish for each item.

4 Mail with completed order form on the last page of this catalog. Include a phone number on the order form so we may call you, if necessary. Please do not order by fax or phone, except for reprints. (Request to see proof before printing, if desired.)

5 To discuss questions or custom requirements before making your order, call 800-325-9414.

LETTERHEAD
24#, 25% cotton; Order Code **PL-9**
$53.95/500, **$65.95**/1000, **$35**/additional 1000s

24#, multi-purpose wove; Order Code **PL-0**
$47.95/500, **$59.95**/1000, **$30**/additional 1000s

MATCHING 2ND SHEETS
25% cotton, Order Code **PV-B; $18.00**/500
Multi-purpose wove, Order Code **PV-M; $12.00**/500

MATCHING #10 ENVELOPES
White, with logo in color, your imprint in black.
24#, 25% cotton, Order Code **PE-9**
$59.95/500, **$74.95**/1000, **$49**/additional 1000s

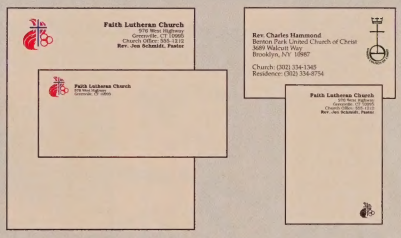
24#, multi-purpose wove,
Order Code **PE-0**
$44.95/500, **$59.95**/1000, **$40**/additional 1000s

BUSINESS CARDS
white, 2 x 3 1/2", 65# stock; color logo, black imprint;
Order Code, **PC-9**; **$24**/250 cards, **$36**/500 cards, **$54**/1000

MEMO PADS
5 1/2 x 8 1/2", white paper, 150 sheets each, black imprint,
Order Code, **PM-9**; **$5.95**/2 pads, **$8.95**/4 pads

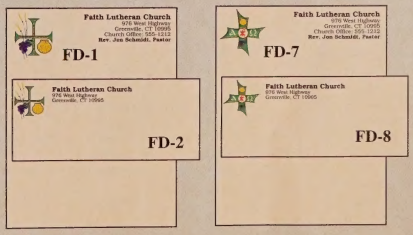
DENOMINATIONAL STATIONERY

Identify your church clearly and attractively with your church body. These 2-color logos appear as shown on letterhead and slightly reduced on matching envelopes and business cards. Logo on memo pads in black only. Your denomination's logo not here? Send us a clear copy and your preferred color.



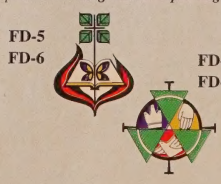
FAITH DESIGN™ STATIONERY

Faith Design™ stationery features Christian symbols in four colors. The two designs shown are available on the same fine papers as our other stationery. *(Sorry, no matching business cards. Memo pads available in black only.)*



CLOSEOUT SPECIAL!

*For a limited time we are offering two discontinued Faith Design™ styles at half price—**including custom imprinting!***



Don't pass up this opportunity! Order Codes **FD-3** (letterhead), **FD-4** (envelope) or **FD-5** (letterhead), **FD-6** (envelope) as illustrated. *(Half off catalog price for 24#, 25% cotton or 24# multi-purpose paper, our choice, as available.)*

PARISH OCCASION CARDS

TWENTY CARDS NOW AVAILABLE INCLUDING BAPTISM BIRTHDAY CARDS

Parish Occasion Cards offer beautiful and convenient ways to send heartfelt messages to members and visitors of your church. Appropriate for a variety of common occasions, the cards feature colorful cover art on fine quality off-white stock; inside, a brief message and Scripture verse, plus plenty of space for a personal message.

CARDS CAN BE CUSTOM IMPRINTED with your pastor/parish name, address, phone, etc. (See the instructions for imprinted products on page 45. Sorry, no phone orders on imprint orders.)

You may combine any number of the different cards to reach a quantity discount price. Specify Order Code(s) for design(s) desired. Cards are 4 3/8" x 5 3/4" supplied flat with **quality, matching envelopes.** ***Please Note:*** *Card P-62/P-22 measures 5" x 6 7/8".*

Cost: **Imprinted $.65** each/25-49; **$.56** each/50-99, **$.46** each/100+. **Without imprint $.58** each/25-49, **$.48** each/50-99, **$.42** each/100+.

Thank You Cards

Thank you for joining us in worship (for visitors) *"As we celebrate the Lord's presence, we also give thanks for your presence among us. We invite you to return soon."* plus *Ps. 16:11.* Order Code with imprinting **P-31**; without imprinting **P-71**.

Thank you for worshiping with us (for visitors) *"Our songs of praise were more joyful today because your voice joined ours—Please come again!* plus *Ps. 95:1.* Order Code with imprinting **P-12**; without imprinting **P-52**.

Thank you (for volunteer appreciation, departing members) *"Your special gifts to our Christian family will always be remembered—We thank you in His name."* plus *1 Thess. 1:2-3.* Order Code with imprinting **P-13**; without imprinting **P-53**.

Birthday Cards

Birthday Joys and Blessings *"May you find God's blessings all around you."* plus *John 10:10.* Order Code with imprinting **P-32** (tan); without imprinting **P-72** (tan) **P-76** (white).

Enjoy your special day *"We share the joy of your special day, For God made you in a special way, And we are thankful."* Order Code with imprinting **P-15** (tan); without imprinting **P-55** (tan) **P-78** (white).

Birthday Blessings (from the church to a child) *"Your church family joins with you in saying thank you to Jesus for giving you the gift of life."* plus *Is. 43:1,4.* Order Code with imprinting **P-16**; without imprinting **P-56**.

Baptism

I was there to hear your borning cry...I'll be there when you are old...I was there the day you were baptized...to see your life unfold. *"The Lord indeed is with you every day of your life and on this, your special day. Happy Baptismal Birthday."* Order Code with imprinting **P-27**; without imprinting **P-67.**

I have called you by name; you are mine. *"Remember! you are chosen, and you are loved. Happy Baptism Birthday"* Order Code with imprinting **P-28**; without imprinting **P-68.**

Water + Word = Life with Jesus. *"Water + Word = Life in Christ. Happy Life-in-Christ Day! Happy Baptism Birthday!"* plus Galatians 3:27. Code with imprinting **P-26**; without imprinting **P-66.**

Cards for Other Occasions

Welcome to your new home (for persons new to your community) *"We are glad you made our community your home. We hope you will make our church your spiritual home."* plus *Prov. 27:10.* Order Code with imprinting **P-17**; without imprinting **P-57**.

Be at Peace (for shut-ins) *"...in the promises of a faithful God and the love of your family in Christ. We miss your smile, your laughter, your song of faith. You are with us in spirit, in our prayers, in our hearts."* plus *Rom. 15:13.* Order Code with imprinting **P-18**; without imprinting **P-58.**

May you know God's healing touch (for persons recovering from illness, surgery, etc.) *"The Lord has promised loving care— We promise you our faithful prayer. We look forward to your return to health."* plus *Jer. 17:14.* Order Code with imprinting **P-19**; without imprinting **P-59.**

Celebrate (anniversary) *"Your friends in Christ rejoice with you as you celebrate this day of remembered blessing."* plus *Ps. 63:4-5.* Order Code with imprinting **P-20**; without imprinting **P-60.**

Welcome (for a new baby) *"You have a new blessing from the Lord! We welcome your new family member—and ours. Love and best wishes from your family in Christ."* plus *Ps. 127:3.* Order Code with imprinting **P-21**; without imprinting **P-61.**

Congratulations! (for milestones and achievements) *"Our happy songs of thanks we raise to sing with you our Father's praise. Your family in Christ rejoices with you."* plus *Eph. 1:3.* Order Code with imprinting **P-22**; without imprinting **P-62**.

Remembering You (for shut-ins, those at a distance, or anniversary of a loss) *"You are a special part of our family in Christ—You are remembered with love."* plus *Heb. 13:5.* Order Code with imprinting **P-23**; without imprinting **P-63**.

Our Lord Be With You (for loss, illness or other crisis) *"We look to our LORD for strength and healing—we look to each other to see our LORD in action. You are in our prayers."* plus *Phil. 4:19-20.* Order Code with imprinting **P-24**; without imprinting **P-64**.

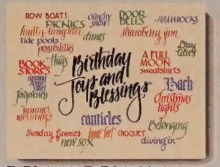
I am the Vine, You are the branches (for persons who have not attended worship) *"We miss the special blessings you give our church family when you worship with us. Please join us this Sunday."* plus *1 Thess. 1:2-3.* Order Code with imprinting **P-25**; without imprinting **P-65**.

PLEASE NOTE!
Order codes listed under the card illustration are for **non-imprinted** cards. Please look in the text above for the appropriate code if you desire **imprinted** cards. **See page 45 for imprint instructions.**

P-71

P-52

P-53

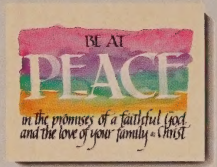


P-72 (tan) **P-76** (white)

P-55 (tan) **P-78** (white)

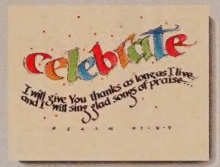
P-56

P-57



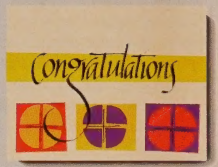
P-58

P-59



P-60

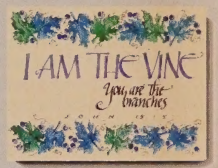
P-61



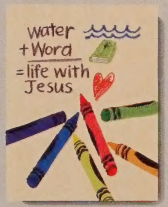
P-62

P-63

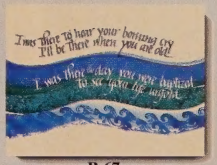
P-64



P-65



P-66



P-67

P-68

NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR PARISH CARD SERIES

God gave you the gift of life *"And He gave us the gift of you. Happy Birthday"* plus *Job 10:12.* Order Code with imprinting **P-33**; without imprinting **P-73.**

NEW THIS YEAR!

P-73

Thank you for worshiping with us *"Your presence increased our joy in worship. Please come again soon."* plus *Psalm 144:15.* Order Code with imprinting **P-34**; without imprinting **P-74.**

P-74

SAMPLER

Examine all 20 Parish Occasion Cards by ordering this packet. Receive one of each card plus envelopes. Code **PS-S**, Cost: **$7.95**

SPECIAL NOTICE

At our customers' request, all new Parish Occasion Cards and all future reprints will be done on a slightly **heavier paper stock**. When our current inventory is exhausted, all cards will be on the heavier paper.

"REJOICE IN THE LORD" CUSTOM IMPRINTED CERTIFICATES

T-10 with imprinting
T-30 no imprinting

REJOICE IN THE LORD
In the
RITE OF CONFIRMATION
has borne witness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
Date Pastor
Witness Witness

Confirmation
Inside: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

T-14 with imprinting
T-34 no imprinting

REJOICE IN THE LORD
In the Spirit of Christian Love
bore witness to the
BAPTISM
of
with a commitment to ongoing prayer and concern for this child's growth in the Christian Faith.
Date Pastor

Baptismal Sponsor
Inside: Ephesians 3:16-17

T-11 with imprinting
T-31 no imprinting

REJOICE IN THE LORD
has made a
PROFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH
and is received into the fellowship of the Church.
Date Pastor
Witness Witness

Profession of Faith
Inside: 2 Peter 3:18

T-15 with imprinting
T-35 no imprinting

REJOICE IN THE LORD
for the support and love that
has given to the church through both time and talents
We show our
APPRECIATION
to you for your work in God's Kingdom.
Date Pastor

Special Thanks
Inside: 1 Thessalonians 1:3

T-12 with imprinting
T-32 no imprinting

REJOICE IN THE LORD
of
a , 19
was
BAPTIZED
in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
day of
year of our Lord
ors
Pastor

Baptism
Inside: Romans 6:4

T-16 with imprinting
T-36 no imprinting

REJOICE IN THE LORD
has successfully completed the prescribed course of study and is hereby honored by the church and its members with this
CERTIFICATE
Date Awarded by

Religious Ed. Accomplishment
Inside: Colossians 1:9-10

T-13 with imprinting
T-33 no imprinting

REJOICE IN THE LORD
and
are united in
HOLY MATRIMONY
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Date
Witness Pastor
Witness

Matrimony
Inside: Colossians 3:15-17

T-17 with imprinting
T-37 no imprinting

REJOICE IN THE LORD
For the first time
has joined this congregation at the Lord's Table for
THE SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST
the day of 19
Witness Pastor

First Communion
Inside: John 1:29

T-18 with imprinting
T-38 no imprinting

REJOICE IN THE LORD
This certifies that
was
BAPTIZED
in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
on the day of
in the year of our Lord
Witnesses
Pastor

Adult Baptism
Inside: Romans 6:4

T-26 with imprinting
T-46 no imprinting

REJOICE IN THE LORD
Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said,
HERE AM I; SEND ME!"
name
has been chosen to serve the people of God as

Appointment
Inside: Corinthians 12:4-7

Just the right way to recognize special milestones in the Christian life of members of your congregation! **"Rejoice in the Lord"** certificates create a memorable record of the special occasion ... and the Word of God included in each certificate puts the accent in just the right place.

These **Custom Imprinted Certificates** are unique as well as economical! You can combine any number of the 10 different certificates to reach a quantity discount price. **"Rejoice in the Lord"** certificates are printed on fine quality off-white paper and come with matching envelopes. The certificate is imprinted with the church and pastor's name ... or with other wording of your choice. The certificate size is 7" x 10" when open and 7" x 5" when folded. Please see page 45 for special instructions that apply to imprinted materials—space is provided there for your imprint information. Sorry, no phone orders—all imprint orders must be mailed to us. **Certificates may also be ordered with no imprinting.**

Cost with imprinting: **$.65** each/25-34, **$.56** each/35-50, and **$.46** each/51+. Cost without imprinting: **$.58** each/25-34, **$.48** each/35-50, and **$.42** each/51+. **Includes a mailing envelope.**

SAMPLER

Examine all 10 Certificates yourself by ordering this special packet. You receive one each of the cards plus 10 envelopes. Order Code CS-X, Cost: $3.95

PERSONALIZED MEMORIAL CARD

MEMORIAL CARD PACKETS FOR THE PARISH

A beautiful full-color memorial card, imprinted with your church's name, comes with its own mailing envelope and a remittance envelope that can be mailed to the church or placed in an offering basket. Each set is packaged in a window envelope with guidelines for use of the card. The memorial words can be customized at your request; indicate changes you desire either on the order form or on a separate sheet of paper. See page 45 for special instructions for imprinted products and space to provide imprint information.

Order Code **DT-H**, cost: **$12**/25, **$19**/50, **$33**/100 (Price includes the Memorial Card, mailing envelope, remittance envelope & imprinting.)

Your Church Imprint Here

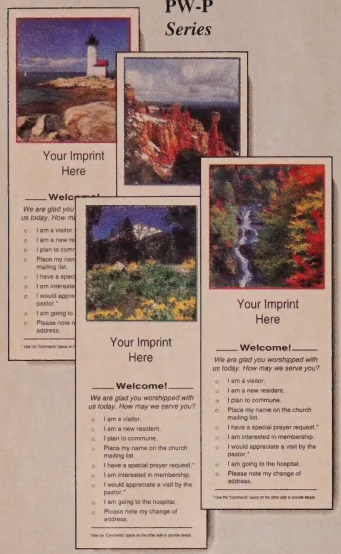
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power.
1 Peter 1:3-5

To the glory of God and in loving memory of
to whom the Lord has given eternal life
a gift
has been made to
Good Shepherd Church
Columbia, Ohio
by

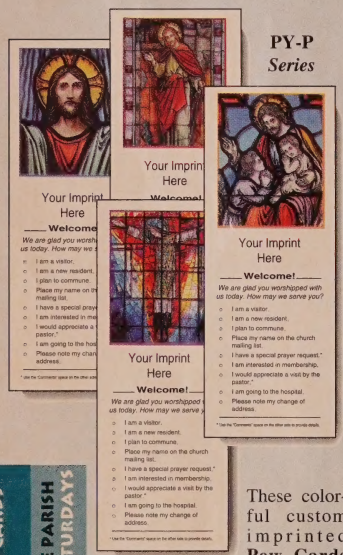
CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH
(800) 325-9414 8-5 WEEKDAYS 8-2 SATURDAYS

PERSONALIZED PEW CARDS

PW-P *Series*



PY-P *Series*

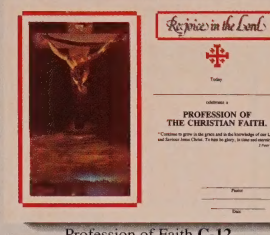


These colorful custom imprinted **Pew Cards** present the variety of services in ministry you offer to members and extend a special welcome to visitors. The top portion of the personalized Pew Card is torn off and kept as a gift bookmark and record of attendance. The bottom portion is returned to the church office. You receive equal quantities of all four colorful designs (either series)—each with a different picture on the front and Bible passage on the back. The church and pastor's name are custom imprinted on the front. Price for either series **$10**/100, **$40**/500, **$70**/1000

PERSONALIZED CERTIFICATES

Confirmation **C-10**

Confirmation **C-11**



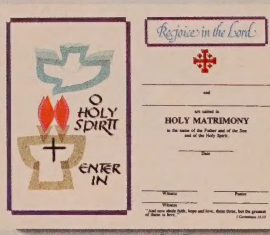
Profession of Faith **C-12**

Profession of Faith **C-13**

Baptism **C-14**

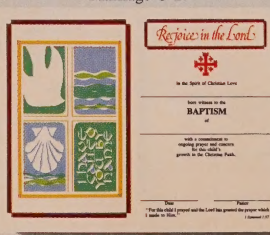
Baptism **C-15**

Marriage **C-16**



Marriage **C-17**

Baptismal Sponsor **C-18**



Baptismal Sponsor **C-19**

Special Thanks **C-20**

Religious Ed. Accomplishment **C-21**

"Rejoice in the Lord" Personalized certificates... Individually imprinted with your church name and foil stamped with the cross in gold.

Here is a series of 8 1/2"x11" presentation certificates **custom imprinted with the name of your church.** One series offers contemporary symbols while the other features inspirational photography—both are printed on high quality sturdy stock and are suitable for framing.

All certificates may be mixed to bring you the maximum quantity discount. Please see the special ordering instructions on page 45. "Rejoice in the Lord" customized certificates provide a lasting reminder of those "high points" in Christian experience.

Orders for certificates **must be sent in by mail.** See the instructions on page 45.

Cost of imprinted certificates:

$10/25,
$19/50,
$35/100,
$140/500

Certificates may also be ordered without imprinting. *Blank certificates are sent immediately. To order* ***blank*** *certificates, substitute a* ***"B"*** *for the* ***"C"*** *listed in the Order Code. Imprinted certificates take 5-6 weeks.*

Cost of certificates without imprints.

$8/25,
$15/50,
$30/100,
$120/500

Cost of matching envelopes:

$4/25, **$6**/50, **$8**/100, **$38**/500

Envelope order code **CE-N**

HOSPITAL CARE CARDS

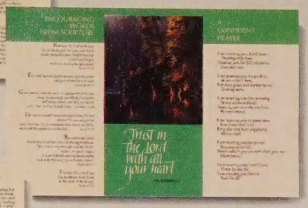
NEW ILLUSTRATIONS!

Designed with the hospitalized or shut-in person in mind, these beautiful Hospital Care Cards can be mailed, or may be used as a reminder of a visit.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

This card features daily prayers accompanied by quotes from I Peter and Psalm 37. A lengthy quotation from Psalm 139 highlights God's constant, guiding presence.

Order Code 5-HC



TRUST IN THE LORD

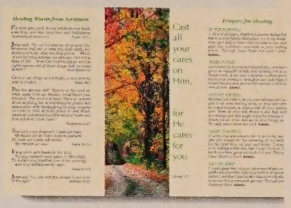
Trust in God's love and power! Verses from the old hymn *I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus*, Bible verses, and a message entitled, "How Are You?" emphasize the fact that God cares and acts.

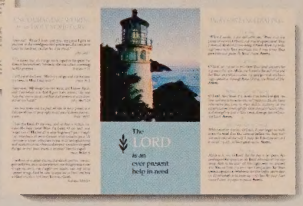
Order Code 6-HC

HE CARES FOR YOU

I Peter 5:7, "Cast all your cares on Him for He cares for you." is highlighted, with other Bible verses. There are also daily prayers, and a message entitled "You Are Never Alone!"

Order Code 7-HC





AN EVER PRESENT HELP

This card focuses on God's constant presence and good will. Daily prayers, Scripture, and a poetic paraphrase of Psalm 23 are included.

Order Code 8-HC.

A Spanish version is also available. Order Code 2-SP.

SPECIAL CARE CARDS

Whether it be the death of a loved one, or a new life in a family, these Care Cards remind the recipient that God is present, and that God's people care.

A CARD FOR CHEER

The promises of God offer comfort and new hope to those who are confined. For times "when every day seems the same," the **Cheer Care Card** can lift the spirit and open the heart to brighter thoughts.

Order Code 2-CC

A CARD FOR COMFORT

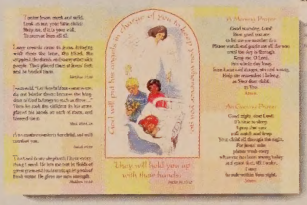
This card points to the comfort of God's Word at the time of ultimate loss and victory. The **Comfort Care Card** uses Scripture to emphasize God's remembered promises of comfort, hope, and eternity.

Order Code 2-BC

A CARD FOR AN ILL CHILD

Stories of Jesus with the children, lively prayers and children's songs help the recipient of the **Children's Care Card** to realize that God is always present. This card highlights God's power over all illness.

Order Code 1-KC



A CARD FOR A NEW CHILD

Quotes from Scripture help the recipient of the **Maternity Care Card** to recognize that children are a gift of God. This card highlights God's hand in the growth of a family (through childbirth or adoption).

Order Code 2-MC

CARE CARD COSTS

Cost: **$24**/50, **$37**/100, **$86**/500, **$150**/1000

Custom sized envelopes are also available for the Care Cards, Order Code **HC-E** Cost: **$6**/50, **$10**/100, **$40**/500, **$70**/1000

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR IMPRINTED PRODUCTS

Orders for imprinted items cannot be taken over the phone—they must be mailed. To order any of the custom imprinted materials please type or print the copy you wish imprinted in the space provided to the right. Note that **Care Cards** allow for four lines at the bottom and three lines at the top. The **Pew Cards**, **Certificates**, **Communion Cards** and **Parish Occasion Cards** allow for three lines of imprinting, and the **Memorial Cards** allow for two lines. If you wish your denominational or church logo to appear on the **Care Cards** in place of the standard illustration (a cross) please send along a sample copy (black line art only). When imprinted material is ordered with other products from Creative Communications, the other products will be shipped immediately and the imprinted items will be shipped separately. Please allow five to six weeks for delivery of the personalized cards.

Please use this space to provide typed or printed information for personalized products. Use the bottom lines to supply information for the Memorial Card, certificates and Pew Cards.

Top: (Care Cards Only) _____

_____

_____

Bottom: _____

_____

_____

_____

Care Cards:

☐ Please check this box if including your own logo.

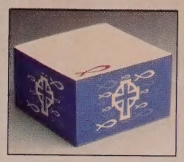
PERSONALIZED CARE CARDS
CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH
(800) 325-9414 8-5 WEEKDAYS 8-2 SATURDAYS

FOR THE CHURCH . . . AND OTHER GIFTS

PRAYER POSTCARDS AND REMINDER OF SERVICE POSTCARDS

These parish postcards are a convenient and memorable way to reach out to those in your prayers for illness or other crisis and to those assisting in volunteer assignments. Two **Prayer Postcards** provide room for a personal message beside the imprinted words (see below). Two **Reminder of Service Postcards** provide a gentle reminder to assure that your workers arrive when you need them. The attractive 3 1/2" x 5 1/2" postcards come in packs of 25. Cost **$3.95**/1-3, **$3.50**/4-9, **$2.95**/10+.

Prayer card backed with *"May God grant you renewed health and strength,"* and Isaiah 58:8. Order Code **30-B.**
Prayer card backed with *"We remembered you in prayer today."* Order Code **30-C.**
Reminder card backed with *"Just a reminder of your offer to help…Event, Time, Responsibility. Thank You!"* and I Cor. 12:4. Order Code **30-D.**
Reminder card backed with *"…you are needed in the service of the Lord! Event, Time, Responsibility. Thank You!"* and Is. 6:8. Order Code **30-E.**



LARGE POST-IT® NOTES

Great for the office, or as gifts! 400 sheets, each with the Christian symbol. Each note is 2 3/4" x 2 3/4". Order Code: **PS-D**, Cost: **$5.95** each/1-5, **$4.95** each/6+

POST-IT® NOTES

These **Post-It® Notes** come in pads of 50 sheets, each measuring 2 3/4" x 3". Order Code **SS-P** (Pastor's Office) or **SS-C** (Church Office). Cost: **$.60** each for 1-9, **$.50** each for 10+

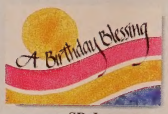
BIRTHDAY POSTCARDS FOR CHURCH & SUNDAY SCHOOL

SB-G

SB-H

These colorful postcards are ideal for your church's card ministry. Bright, cheerful art by Sally Beck makes these cards stand out. They let your members know you care. Two cards for adults, two for children. The 3 1/2" x 5 1/2" cards come in packs of 25. Cost: **$3.95**

Hooray! Today Is Your Birthday. *Jesus and your friends at Sunday School are happy for you.* (For child) Order Code **SB-G**. ***Birthday Blessings.*** *"Your church family joins with you in saying thank you to Jesus for giving you the gift of life."* (For child) Order Code **SB-H**. ***A Birthday Blessing.*** *"God gave us the gift of you. We rejoice with you as you celebrate your birthday."* Order Code **SB-J**. ***Enjoy your special day.*** *"We share the joy of your special day, For God made you in a special way, And we are thankful."* Order Code **SB-K.**



SB-J

SB-K

FORGET-ME-NOTS

These festive 2.5" x 4" cards have an inspirational verse in calligraphy. Send with letters. Use them as bookmarks. Leave them to show love. 8 different designs in a gift pack of 150. Order Code: **FO-M**. Cost: **$4.95**

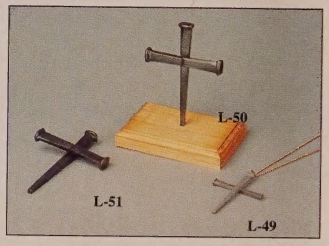
SQUARE NAIL CROSSES

These crosses fashioned out of square nails serve as a unique reminder of the Christian faith.

This attractive square nail cross (3"x2") comes with a 24" steel **neck chain**. With its pewter-like finish it is ideal as a gift or award, or for acolytes or choir members.Order Code **L-49** Cost: **$3.25**/1-3, **$2.95**/4+

The large square nail **cross in wood** stands 4 1/2" high. Its finished wood base is 3" by 4 1/2". Makes a wonderful desk ornament. and a fine gift. Order Code **L-50**, Cost: **$5.95**/1-3, **$5.50**/4+

The large square nail **wall cross** is 4 1/2" high with a hanging bracket. Appropriate for office, classroom or home. Order Code **L-51**, Cost: **$5.95**/1-3, **$5.50**/4+



RESOURCES FOR YOUR HUNGER PROGRAMS

THANKSGIVING COIN BOX

This coin holder is just the thing for food ministry collections at Thanksgiving or year around. Constructed of sturdy stock and printed in full color to resemble a loaf, the Bread Box is easily assembled into a 4"x2.5"x2.5" box. Shipped flat, each box fits in a 6"x9" envelope for mailing. Bread Box Code **BB-2**. Cost: **$.33**/1-99, **$.31**/100-499, **$.29**/500+. Envelopes Order Code **BB-9** Cost: **$10**/100, **$45**/500, **$80**/1000.

THANKS-GIVING™ BAGS

Collect stock for your local or church food pantry with Thanks-Giving™ grocery bags. Distribute prior to a food drive…to be filled and returned on an announced date. Useful in group and school projects. A sample bulletin/newsletter announcement with each order. Sold in sets of 25. Code **TB-4,** Cost:**$.20 each**/25; **$.18 each**/50; **$.16 each**/100. *Your purchase does more!* Creative Communications will donate 10% of all proceeds from its Thanks-Giving™ bags to agencies combating hunger. For 1995, $1000 was donated!
Use the food bags (TB-4) in conjunction with the Bread Box (BB-2) as a way to expand your hunger ministry program!

POTLUCK PLACEMAT

It's always a pleasure dining at church, but you can make the experience even more pleasurable with these colorful **potluck placemats**. Illustrated in rich earth tones, these 11" by 17" placemats can be used for any meal at any time of the year. A Scriptural account of the feeding of the 5000, several common table prayers, and a reflection on the ways God coordinates our efforts invite parishioners to once again taste and see God's grace and favor in the food, fun, and fellowship of the potluck dinner. Ideal for use at special receptions and conference luncheons at your parish as well. Order Code: **PL-1,** Cost: **$17**/100, **$69**/500, **$99**/1000

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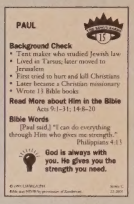
TRADING CARDS

Collect'em, Sort'em, Trade'em—Kids will love'em!
King's Kards Bible Trading Cards are a clever and fun way to learn about important Bible characters. Each card contains a colorful illustration, interesting facts, related Bible verses and more. These cards come in sheets of six and in collector packs of twelve. They make a great gift for kids of all ages and are excellent witnessing tools as well!



Series A, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Esther, Mary Magdalene, Dorcas ..... **Order Code: KK-A**
Series B, Zacchaeus, Jesus, Cleopas, Lamb on the Throne, Stephen, Philip ..... **Order Code: KK-B**
Series C, Peter, Cornelius, Paul, Jailer at Philippi, Paul's nephew, Julius ..... **Order Code: KK-C**
Series D, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Rachel ..... **Order Code: KK-D**
Series E, Mary, Joseph, Jesus (baby), Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon ..... **Order Code: KK-E**
Series F, Saul, David, Jonathan, Solomon, Elijah, Widow of Zaraphath ..... **Order Code: KK-F**
Series G, Joseph (in Egypt), Bartimaeus, Timothy, Samuel, Moses, Elisha ..... **Order Code: KK-G**
Series H, Bible-time children, Angel, Miriam (repeat from Series A), Early Christian family, Hannah (Repeat from Series A), Thankful Man ..... **Order Code: KK-H**
Series I, Paralyzed Man, Lost Son, Forgiving Father, Pharisee, Tax Collector, Good Samaritan ..... **Order Code: KK-I**
Series J, John the Baptist, Shepherds, Anna, Wise Men, Andrew, Matthew ..... **Order Code: KK-J**

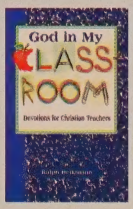
Cost 1-10/$.65; 11-24/$.59; 25+/$.55

GIFTS FOR TEACHERS AND OTHER SPECIAL PEOPLE

Just the gift for giving to teachers and others who deserve a sign of our appreciation. Two of these useful and attractive gifts come already wrapped. One serves as a reminder of your thanks for a whole year.

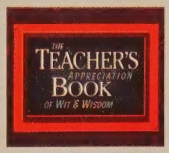
Double Tablet and Pen set. "Do Everything in Love." Includes Scripture verses. Wrapped and ribboned. Order Code **TA-3**; Cost **$4.99.**

Double Tablet and Pen set. "Dear Teacher…" Includes Scripture verses. Wrapped and ribboned. Order Code **TA-4**; Cost **$4.99.**



God In My Classroom helps teachers look to God alone as the source of their strength, wisdom and motivation in the classroom. Using personal anecdotes and touching allegories, the booklet shows how personal Bible study, prayer and a personal faith life nourish teachers' ability to share Christ with their students. Code **TD-3** Cost **$8.99**/1-2; **$7.99**/3+

The Teacher's Appreciation Book of Wit & Wisdom, a 94-page 6 5/8" x 5 1/2" paperback, is a great alternative to sending a card to say thanks to a special teacher. Features short quotes and humorous quips to enliven anyone's day. Gift envelope included. Order Code **TA-1**; Cost **$5.99.**



WOODEN WALL CROSS
Perfect balance is crafted into every facet of the Cross. Its clear love and dedication are engrained in every detail of this finely crafted and finished wall hanging. Each cross is 9 1/4" high by 8" wide. Order Code **L-69** Cost: **$17.00**/1-3, **$16.24**/4+.

GIFTS FOR THE CHURCH
CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH
(800) 325-9414 8-5 WEEKDAYS 8-2 SATURDAYS

Bill & Ship To: _____

Attention: _____

Address: _____
(street address preferred)

City: _____ **State/Province:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Please give the name and phone number of the person making this order:

_____
(please print)

(AC) / _____

Quantity	Code	Description	Price	Amount
❑ Please send me the **FREE** VBS catalog (see page 17) and special discount coupon. Order Code **VB-C**			**FREE**	

GENERAL ORDERING INFORMATION

Mail this order form to **Creative Communications for the Parish**, 10300 Watson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63127. Or, call toll-free 1-800-325-9414 each weekday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.(central time). Or, **Fax this order form**—1-314-821-9031. All U.S. orders are shipped promptly via UPS with an invoice enclosed in the package. Actual shipping and handling charges are extra and are added to the enclosed invoice. If you have any questions concerning your order please call toll-free at 1-800-325-9414. Orders for imprinted material cannot be taken over the phone. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

All prices in this catalog are in U.S. dollars. Canadian customers may pay in either U.S. or Canadian funds.

SPECIAL RESOURCES FOR THE PARISH

THE GREAT BIBLE DISCOVERY SERIES **Learning the Bible** becomes an exciting adventure. Favorite characters and narratives come alive through storybook animation and a straightforward translation of Scripture. A live-action "guide" leads the way through each story by providing clues, asking questions, offering commentary to help viewers ages 6-11 understand the Bible more clearly.

Discovering The Empty Tomb: The Story Of Easter follows Jesus from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his glorious resurrection on Easter morning. Original artwork portrays the drama of Christ's Passion and the earth-shaking excitement of his resurrection. (Approx. 40 min., VHS) Code **Y-31** Cost: **$14.95** *3 bonus points!*

Discovering the Way Out: The Story of the Passover New! follows the Israelite people as they prepare for the greatest escape in history. From the burning bush to the crossing of the Red Sea, God calls Moses to lead the way to freedom. In the end, viewers will discover that God still provides freedom for those who want to follow. (Approx. 30 min., VHS) Code **Y-34** Cost: **$14.95** *3 bonus points!*

Discovering Dreams Come True: The Story of Joseph and his Brothers New! follows the remarkable life of Joseph whose forgiveness and faith in God saved his sometimes jealous family. In the end, viewers will discover the wonderful news that God has a dream come true in store for them too. (Approx. 30 min., VHS) Code **Y-35** Cost: **$14.95** *3 bonus points!*

SPECIAL OFFER ON THE GREAT BIBLE DISCOVERY SERIES!

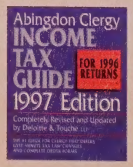
Order any video in the series and get either ***Easter Is*** or ***Freedom Is*** for only $3.95 (retail $12.95)

Order any two videos in the series and get either ***Easter Is*** or ***Freedom Is*** absolutely free!

Please see Page 24 for order information.

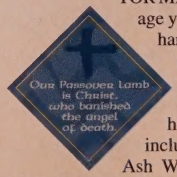
"THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPING WITH US" POSTCARD

This new parish postcard is a convenient way to reach out to those who visit your worship services. The card provides room for a personal message between the imprinted words (Top: *We thank God for your presence in worship, and we invite you to return soon.* Bottom: *Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.* Psalm 47:6). This attractive 3 1/2" x 5 1/2" postcard comes in packs of 25. Cost **$3.95**/1-3, **$3.50**/4-9, **$2.95**/10+. Order Code **30-F**



ABINGDON CLERGY INCOME TAX GUIDE

An all-in-one guide for clergy! Prepared and updated by one of the largest tax firms in the world, Deloitte Touche. For 1996 U.S. federal tax returns. Concise explanations of parsonage exclusion provisions and the form for self-employed clergy. Step-by-step instructions. Order Code **AT-X** Cost: **$11.95**

A LENTEN MAGNET "OUR PASSOVER LAMB IS CHRIST"

A great inclusion in any seasonal mailing, and a timely gift for children in your parish—A LENTEN REFRIGERATOR MAGNET! And, it's useful! Encourage your members to use this magnet to hang Seasonal Event/Service Schedules, or Lenten Calendars—keeping thoughts of prayer, meditation and worship in view in the home. A brief children's sermon is included with each order—perfect for Ash Wednesday or the first Sunday in Lent. Order for the entire congregation! Code **RM-2**, Cost: **$.33**/1-49; **$.25**/50-99;**$.19**/100+